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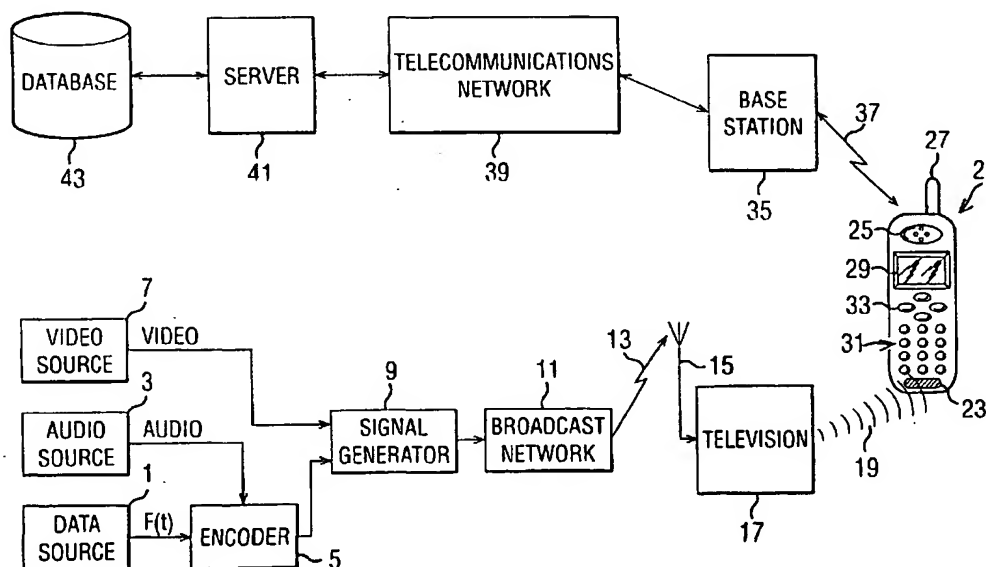
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(54) Title: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: There is described a communication system in which data is received by and/or transmitted to a telecommunications apparatus using an acoustic data channel. In embodiments, the data is encoded within the audio track of a media broadcast or other public broadcast. The invention has particular, but not exclusive, relevance to a cellular communication system. There are also described acoustic position detection systems for determining the position of a telecommunications apparatus.



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COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

This invention relates to a communication system. The invention has particular, but not exclusive, relevance to communications system in which a telephone apparatus such as a cellular phone is provided with a secondary data channel.

Cellular phones are available in which a secondary data channel is formed by transmitting data over an infra-red link, for example in accordance with the IrDA protocol. A disadvantage of using an infra-red link is that the cellular phone has to be aligned quite accurately with another infra-red port.

According to one aspect of the invention, there is provided a communication system in which data is received by and/or transmitted to a telecommunications apparatus using an acoustic data channel. By using an acoustic data channel, the requirement for accurate alignment is removed.

Acoustic signals are encountered in many different ways during daily life. Many of these acoustic signals are generated by inputting an electrical signal into an electro-acoustic transducer, for example the audio tracks of television/radio programmes and public address announcements. According to an aspect of the invention, data are encoded within an electrical signal which is then output by an electro-acoustic transducer. The acoustic signal is detected by a telecommunications apparatus which recovers the data and responds in some manner to the recovered data.

In some applications, the data conveys information and the telecommunications apparatus responds by presenting

the information to a user.

5 In other applications, the data triggers the telecommunications apparatus to initiate a stored application, for example sending a message to a predefined telephone number. This trigger can be synchronised with an event, for example a particular moment within a television programme.

10 In still other applications, the data is used to configure the telecommunications apparatus. For example, the data could convey a ring tone for a cellular phone.

15 Preferably, the data identifies a data source which is accessible using the telecommunications network, and the telecommunications apparatus responds to the acoustic data signal by downloading information from the data source. For example, the data source could be a web site. In this way, the acoustic signal transmits only
20 a small amount of data which is advantageous because the transmission of the data signal becomes less invasive to a listener (i.e. unobtrusive even when transmitted within the audible frequency range).

25 According to another aspect of the invention, a telecommunications apparatus has an electro-acoustic transducer and is arranged to produce a data signal which is output by the electro-acoustic transducer to form an acoustic data signal. This acoustic data signal can then
30 be detected by a remote device.

According to a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a communications system in which data are encoded within an electrical signal which is then output
35 by an electro-acoustic transducer. The acoustic signal is detected by a telecommunications apparatus which

converts the acoustic signal into a corresponding electrical signal. The telecommunications apparatus is coupled to a telecommunications network and means for recovering the data from the electrical signal corresponding to the acoustic signal is provided in the telecommunications apparatus or another device coupled to the telecommunications network.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a communication system in which a data signal generator generates a data signal and sends the generated data signal, vis a telecommunications network, to a telecommunications apparatus. The data signal is converted by the telecommunications apparatus into a corresponding acoustic signal, which is detected by an acousto-electric transducer and converted into a corresponding electrical signal. A reception apparatus which is coupled to the acousto-electric transducer then processes the electrical signal to recover the data signal.

Preferably, the data signal is encoded using spread spectrum encoding which spreads the energy of the data signal over a wide range of audible frequencies. This reduces the noticeability of the data signal within the audio track to a listener. Using spread spectrum encoding also makes eavesdropping on the data transmitted via the acoustic data channel more difficult.

According to a further aspect of the invention, there is provided an acoustic position detection system in which the position of a cellular communications apparatus is determined by processing acoustics signals which are either received by or transmitted from the cellular communications apparatus.

Exemplary embodiments of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

5 Figure 1 schematically shows a signalling system for communicating a data signal to a cellular phone via the audio track of a television signal and for downloading information from the internet to the cellular phone in accordance with the data signal;

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Figure 2 schematically shows an encoder which forms part of the signalling system illustrated in Figure 1;

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Figure 3 is a plot comparing the power spectrum of a typical audio track of a television signal with that of a modulated data signal with and without spread spectrum encoding;

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Figure 4 schematically shows a shaping unit which forms part of the encoder illustrated in Figure 2;

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Figure 5 is a plot of a power spectrum corresponding to the sensitivity of a human ear with and without the presence of a narrowband tone;

30

Figure 6 schematically shows a cellular phone which forms part of the signalling system illustrated in Figure 1;

Figure 7A is a schematic block diagram showing the functional configuration of a processor which forms part of the cellular phone illustrated in Figure 6 when receiving and processing a data signal;

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Figure 7B is a flow chart illustrating the steps performed by the cellular phone shown in Figure 6 to receive and process a data signal;

Figure 8 schematically shows a first alternative encoder to the encoder illustrated in Figure 2;

5 Figure 9 is a schematic block diagram showing the functional configuration of a processor of a first alternative cellular phone to the cellular phone illustrated in Figure 6 when demodulating a signal encoded by the first alternative encoder illustrated in Figure 8;

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Figure 10 schematically shows an audio mixer of a second alternative encoder to the encoder illustrated in Figure 2;

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Figure 11A is a timing diagram illustrating a typical audio track;

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Figure 11B is a timing diagram illustrating the predictable portion of the audio track illustrated in Figure 11A;

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Figure 11C is a timing diagram showing the non-predictable portion of the audio track illustrated in Figure 11A;

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Figure 11D is a timing diagram showing a spread spectrum data signal;

Figure 11E is a timing diagram showing the spread spectrum data signal illustrated in Figure 11D after it has been shaped to approximate the non-predictable portion of the audio track as illustrated in Figure 11C;

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Figure 11F is a timing diagram showing a modified audio track obtained by combining the predictable portion of the audio track as illustrated in Figure 11B with the

shaped spread spectrum signal as shown in Figure 11E;

5 Figure 12 schematically shows an audio mixer for a third alternative encoder to the encoder illustrated in Figure 2;

10 Figure 13 schematically shows an audio mixer for a fourth alternative encoder to the encoder illustrated in Figure 2;

Figure 14 schematically shows a first alternative signalling system in which data is communicated between two cellular phones via acoustic signals;

15 Figure 15 is a block diagram showing in more detail a cellular phone of the first alternative signalling system illustrated in Figure 14;

20 Figure 16 schematically shows a second alternative signalling system in which a cellular phone encodes a control signal, which varies in accordance with the telephone number of a caller, within a ring signal and a toy detects the ring signal and responds in accordance with the control signal;

25 Figure 17 schematically shows a cellular phone which forms part of the second alternative signalling system illustrated in Figure 16;

30 Figure 18 is schematic block diagram showing the functional configuration of a processor of the cellular phone illustrated in Figure 17 when receiving an incoming call;

35 Figure 19 schematically shows a toy which forms part of the second alternative signalling system illustrated in

Figure 16;

5 Figure 20 schematically shows a third alternative signalling system in which a data signal is conveyed between a computer and a toy via an acoustic signal emitted by a cellular telephone;

10 Figure 21 is a schematic block diagram showing the functional configuration of a processor of a cellular phone for the third alternative signalling system illustrated in Figure 20 when processing a received control signal;

15 Figure 22 schematically shows a first alternative server for the signalling system illustrated in Figure 1;

20 Figure 23 is a schematic block diagram showing the functional configuration of a processor of a cellular phone which forms part of a position determining system;

 Figure 24 is a schematic block diagram showing the functional configuration of a position processor module executed by the processor illustrated in Figure 23;

25 Figure 25 is a schematic diagram of a first alternative position detection system;

30 Figure 26 schematically shows electrical circuitry of a master beacon in the first alternative position detection system illustrated in Figure 25;

35 Figure 27 is a schematic block diagram showing the functional configuration of a processor of a cellular phone which forms part of the first alternative position detection system illustrated in Figure 25; and

 Figure 28 is a schematic block diagram showing the

functional configuration of a correlator unit executed by the processor illustrated in Figure 27.

5 Figure 1 schematically illustrates a first embodiment of the invention in which a data signal $F(t)$, generated by a data source 1, is encoded within an audio track from an audio source 3 by an encoder 5 to form a modified audio track for a television program. In this embodiment, the data signal $F(t)$ conveys a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) identifying a web page, accessible
10 via the Internet, associated with the television program. The modified audio track output by the encoder 5 is then combined with the corresponding video track, from a video source 7, by a signal generator 9 to form a television signal conveying the television program. In this
15 embodiment the data source 1, the audio source 3, the video source 7 and the encoder 5 are all located in a television studio and the television signal is broadcast by a conventional broadcast network 11 using a radio frequency (RF) signal 13.
20

The RF signal 13 is detected by a television aerial 15 which directs the television signal to a conventional television 17. The television 17 has a display (not
25 shown) for showing the video track and a loudspeaker (not shown) for outputting the modified audio track as an acoustic signal 19.

In this embodiment, a cellular phone 21 (sometimes
30 referred to as a mobile phone) detects the acoustic signal 19 emitted by the television 17 using a microphone 23 which converts the detected acoustic signal into a corresponding electrical signal. The cellular phone 21 then decodes the electrical signal to recover the data
35 signal $F(t)$. The cellular phone 21 also has conventional components such as a loudspeaker 25, an antenna 27 for

communicating with a cellular telecommunications network, a display 29, a keypad 31 for entering numbers and letters, and menu keys 33 for accessing menu options.

5 In this embodiment, the cellular phone 21 is able to access the Internet using the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP). After the data signal $F(t)$ has been recovered by the cellular phone 21, in response to a user requesting further information about the television
10 program being shown by the television 17 by selecting a menu option using the menu buttons 33, the cellular phone 21 transmits to a base station 35, via RF signals 37, a request to download the web page corresponding to the URL conveyed by the data signal $F(t)$. The base station 35
15 forwards the request, via a telecommunications network 39, to the server 41 identified in the URL conveyed by the data signal $F(t)$. The server 41 retrieves from a database 43 the requested web page and transmits the requested web page to the cellular phone 21 via the
20 telecommunications network 39 and the base station 35. The user is then able to read the web page on the display 29 and, for example, access further web pages referenced in the requested web page or make a transaction to buy a product associated with the television program.

25 As those skilled in the art will appreciate, an advantageous feature of the above-described signalling system is that conventional television broadcast networks, televisions, cellular communications networks
30 and web pages can be used, although a novel encoder 5 and a novel cellular phone 21 are required.

Figure 2 shows in more detail the main components of the encoder 5 of the first embodiment. The data signal $F(t)$
35 is input to a forward error correction (FEC) unit 51 which separates the data signal $F(t)$ into blocks of 7

data bits and encodes each block of seven data bits using a (15,7) block code, in particular a BCH (Bose, Chaudhuri and Hocquenghem) code, to form a block of 15 data bits. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the extra bits added by the BCH code enable errors in transmission to be detected and corrected. In this embodiment, the FEC unit 51 also adds a synchronisation bit (hereafter referred to as the SYNC bit) having a value of "0" at the beginning of each block of 15 data bits to generate a modified data signal $M(t)$ formed by 16-bit frames of data. In this embodiment, the modified data signal $M(t)$ is a logic signal which is generated at approximately 7.8 bits per second.

An advantageous feature of the first embodiment is that a spread spectrum encoding technique is used to spread the energy of the modified data signal $M(t)$ over a wide range of frequencies. This has the effect of making the data signal less noticeable in the acoustic signal 19 emitted by the television 17. In particular, if the modified data signal $M(t)$ is directly combined with the audio track without such coding, then it is more likely to be heard by a viewer of the television 17.

In this embodiment, direct sequence spread spectrum (DSSS) encoding is used to spread the energy of the data signal over a wide band of frequencies. In order to perform the DSSS encoding, a first pseudo-noise code generator 53a is used to generate a pseudo-noise code PN0 and a second pseudo-noise code generator 53b is used to generate a pseudo-noise code PN1. As those skilled in the art of telecommunications will appreciate, pseudo-noise codes are binary codes which appear to be completely random in nature, but which are in fact deterministic, i.e. they can be reproduced. In particular, these codes are generated by exclusive-OR

(XOR) feedback from synchronously clocked registers. By continually clocking the registers, the pseudo-noise code is cyclically reproduced. The number of registers, the registers used in the feedback path and the
5 initialisation state of the registers determines the length of the code and the specific code produced.

In this embodiment, the pseudo-noise code generators 53 have 12 registers and generate pseudo-noise codes having
10 4095 bits (which will hereinafter be referred to as chips using the standard nomenclature in the art to distinguish the bits of the pseudo-noise code from the bits of the data signal to be spread) in a stream with no sequence of more than 12 chips repeated in the 4095 chips. Such
15 a pseudo-noise code is conventionally referred to as a 12-bit code after the number of registers used to generate it. At the end of each stream of 4095 chips a binary 0 is added to make the total length of the stream 4096 chips. In this embodiment, the pseudo-noise codes
20 PN0 and PN1 are orthogonal to each other and therefore if they are sequentially input chip by chip into respective inputs of an XOR gate then another pseudo-noise sequence is output by the XOR gate.

25 The output of the first pseudo-noise code generator 53a is connected to a non-inverting input of a first AND gate 55a while the output of the FEC unit 51 is connected to an inverting input of the first AND gate 55a. The output of the FEC unit 51 is also connected to a non-
30 inverting input of a second AND gate 55b and the output of the second pseudo-noise code generator 53b is connected to a non-inverting input of the second AND gate 55b. The outputs of the first and second AND gates 55 are connected together to generate a spread data signal
35 $I(t)$ which corresponds to PN0 when the value of the modified data signal $M(t)$ is 0 and corresponds to pseudo-

noise code PN1 when the value of the modified data signal $M(t)$ is 1.

5 In this embodiment, each pseudo-noise code is generated at a rate of 2000 chips per second so that each data bit is multiplied by a sequence of 256 chips and each data frame is multiplied by 4096 chips. As each data frame corresponds to a complete cycle of the pseudo-noise codes PN0 and PN1, the SYNC bit, which has a data value of "0",
10 is always represented by the same 256 chip sequence of the pseudo-noise code PN0. This allows a decoder to synchronise itself with a received chip sequence more easily.

15 The logic signal $I(t)$ is input to a modulator 57 which uses phase shift keying to modulate a 2 kHz carrier signal generated by a local oscillator (not shown) in accordance with the value of the logic signal $I(t)$. In particular, the carrier signal is a digital signal having
20 a sample rate of 8kHz and a 16-bit value per sample. Each chip of the logic signal $I(t)$ therefore modulates a sequence of four samples of the carrier signal. In this embodiment, the modulator 57 includes a re-sampling circuit (not shown) which re-samples the modulated signal
25 at the sampling rate of the audio track, which in this embodiment is 22.05kHz, to generate a modulated signal $G(t)$.

30 The effect of the spread spectrum encoding is illustrated in Figure 3 which shows a typical audio signal 71 in the frequency range of 0 to 6 kHz with, as is normally the case, the power being predominantly concentrated at the lower frequencies. Figure 3 also shows a modulated data signal 73 which would result if no spreading was carried
35 out and the modified data signal $M(t)$ was directly modulated by the modulator 57. As shown, this modulated

data signal 73 is a narrow band signal centred at approximately 2 kHz and having a peak power significantly above the power level of the audio signal 71 at that frequency. However, if spreading is performed as well as modulating, a spread signal 75 is obtained which has a power spectrum with a main band spread between 0 and 4 kHz and harmonic bands at higher frequencies. As the power of the spread signal 75 is distributed over a wider range of frequencies than for the modulated signal 73, the peak power level is significantly reduced. For many applications the spread signal 75 is not noticeable to a listener or is heard only as a background white noise. Further, the majority of the energy of the main band is in a frequency range for which most conventional television loudspeakers work satisfactorily. There is, therefore, no requirement for a user to obtain a new television set to take advantage of the invention.

Returning to Figure 2, the modulated signal $G(t)$ and the audio track are input to an audio mixer 59 where they are combined to form the modified audio track. In particular, in the audio mixer 59 the modulated signal $G(t)$ and the audio track are input to a shaping unit 61 which analyses the power spectrum of the audio track and modifies the power spectrum of the modulated signal $G(t)$ in dependence upon the power spectrum of the audio track in order to generate a shaped signal $S(t)$ which is less obtrusive when combined with the audio track. Figure 4 shows in more detail the main components of the shaping unit 61. The audio track, which in this embodiment is generated at 22,050 samples per second with each sample having a 16-bit value, is input to a first Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) unit 81 which splits the audio track into blocks each having 2048 samples applying conventional overlapping and windowing techniques. The FFT unit 81 measures for each block the energy in 2048 frequency sub-

bands to generate 2048 coefficients which are output to a scaling unit 83.

5 The scaling unit 83 applies a psycho-acoustic algorithm to generate scaling factors for the 2048 frequency sub-bands. In particular, the scaling unit includes a psycho-acoustic filter which outputs, for each frequency sub-band of each block of samples, a scaling factor based on the energy in that and neighbouring frequency sub-bands for that block of samples and for preceding and succeeding neighbouring blocks of samples. Using a psycho-acoustic algorithm allows higher signal levels to be used than if a simple scaling algorithm was applied because it takes into account the dynamic variation of sensitivity of the human ear in the presence of sounds. This will be explained further with reference to Figure 5 which shows the sensitivity of a typical human ear for different frequencies (in other words, the minimum sound levels for different frequencies which can be heard by a typical human ear) without any background noise (the plot referenced as 101) and in the presence of a narrow band signal 103 (the dashed plot referenced as 105). As can be seen from Figure 5, the ability of the human ear to distinguish sound in the frequency range of the narrow band signal 103 and in a range of frequencies both above and below the frequency range of the narrow band signal 103 is significantly reduced. There are therefore audio signals which cannot be heard by the human ear in the presence of the narrow band signal 103, even though they would be heard if the narrow band signal 103 is not present. In this embodiment, the psycho-acoustic algorithm uses channel descriptors, which are stored in a memory 85, to approximate how the audio track will be modified by the broadcast network 11 and television 17 when determining the scaling factors for each of the 2048 frequency sub-bands.

Psycho-acoustic algorithms have been previously investigated for data compression, since sounds which would not be discerned by a listener can be removed from an audio data stream. Further details of psycho-acoustic encoding can be found in the paper "Transform Coding of Audio Signals Using Perceptual Noise Criteria" by James D. Johnston, IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications, Vol. 6, No. 2, February 1988, whose contents are hereby incorporated by reference.

10

The modulated signal $G(t)$ is input to a second FFT unit 87 which, in the same manner as the FFT unit 81, splits the modulated signal $G(t)$ into blocks of 2048 samples and generates 2048 coefficients corresponding to the energy in 2048 frequency sub-bands for each block. In this embodiment, the 2048 frequency sub-bands for the second FFT unit 87 match the 2048 frequency sub-bands of the first FFT unit 81. The 2048 coefficients output by the second FFT unit 87 and the 2048 scaling factors output by the scaling unit 83 are input to a multiplier 89 where the coefficient for each frequency sub-band of the modulated signal $G(t)$ is multiplied by the corresponding scaling factor for that frequency sub-band determined from the audio track. The scaled coefficients output by the multiplier 89 are then input to an Inverse Fast Fourier Transform (IFFT) unit 91 which generates the shaped signal $S(t)$ from the scaled coefficients, taking into account the windowing and overlapping.

30

Returning to Figure 2, the audio track is also input to a time delay unit 63 which delays the audio track for a period of time corresponding to the time required for the shaping unit 61 to generate the shaped signal $S(t)$ using the audio track. The audio track output from the time delay unit 63 and the shaped signal $S(t)$ are input to an adder 65 which performs a simple linear adding operation

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to combine them to form the modified audio track. The purpose of the time delay unit 63 is to ensure that each portion of the audio track is combined in the adder 65 with the portion of the shaped signal $S(t)$ which has been
5 shaped in accordance with the power spectrum of that portion of the audio track.

As described above, the modified audio track is combined with a video track to form a television signal which is
10 then broadcast over a conventional television network 11. An aerial 15 detects the broadcast television signal 13 and directs a corresponding electrical signal to a television 17 which outputs an acoustic signal 19 corresponding to the modified audio track using a
15 loudspeaker (not shown). The output acoustic signal 19 is then detected by the microphone 23 of the cellular phone 21.

Figure 6 shows in more detail the main components of the
20 cellular phone 21 of the first embodiment. As shown, the microphone 23 of the cellular phone 21 converts the detected acoustic signal 19 into a corresponding electrical signal $H(t)$ which is input to an anti-aliasing filter 111. The filtered signal output by the anti-aliasing filter 111 is input to an analog-to-digital
25 converter (ADC) 113 which converts the filtered signal into a corresponding digital signal $D(t)$ using a sampling rate of 8 kHz. The output of the ADC 113 is connected to an AUDIO_IN input of a processor 115.

30 Digital signals output via an AUDIO_OUT output of the processor 115 are input to a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) 117 which converts the digital signals into corresponding analog signals which are then amplified by
35 an amplifier 119 before being output as acoustic waves by the loudspeaker 25. A DISP_OUT output of the

processor 115 is connected to the display 29 while a KEY_IN input to the processor 115 is connected to the keyboard 31. An RF_OUT output of the processor 115 is connected to a radio frequency (RF) processor unit 121 which processes baseband digital signals output by the processor 115 to form RF signals for broadcast via the antenna 27. The RF processor unit 121 also processes incoming RF signals received via the antenna 27 to form baseband signals which are input to an RF_IN input of the processor 115.

A random access memory (RAM) 123, a non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM) 125 and a read only memory (ROM) 127 are also connected to the processor 115. The NVRAM 125 stores data associated with the user of the cellular phone 21, for example a phone book listing the names and associated phone numbers of commonly called people, and the RAM 123 provides working space for use during the operation of the processor 115. The ROM 127 stores routines which control the operation of the processor 115.

In particular, the ROM 127 stores routines which enable the processor to operate in three different modes. In a call mode, which is activated when the cellular phone 21 is used during a telephone call, acoustic signals received by the microphone 23 are converted by the processor 115 into baseband signals which are output to the RF processor unit 121 and incoming baseband signals from the RF processor unit 121 are converted into audio signals which are output by the loudspeaker 25. In a standby mode, which is the default mode when no telephone call is being made, the processor 115 waits for either an RF signal initiating a call to be detected by the antenna 27 or for one of the keys of the keyboard 31 to be pressed. In the standby mode the processor 115 does

not process acoustic signals detected by the microphone 23. The call mode and standby modes are conventional modes of operation for a cellular phone. In the third mode, hereafter called the monitor mode, the processor 115 processes acoustic signals 19 received by the microphone 23 to recover any data signal embedded within the acoustic signal 19 in addition to performing the operations of the standby mode.

The operation of the processor 115 in the monitor mode will now be described in more detail with reference to Figures 7A and 7B. Figure 7A is a schematic block diagram showing the functional configuration of the processor 115 during the monitor mode and Figure 7B shows a flow chart illustrating the main steps performed by the processor 115 in the monitor mode. The monitor mode is initiated, in step S1, by the user selecting a menu option using the menu keys 33. Once the monitor mode has been initiated, the processor 115 receives, in step S3, the digital signal $D(t)$ conveying audio data from the microphone 23 via the AUDIO_IN input of the processor 115.

The digital signal $D(t)$ is then processed by a demodulator 130 which demodulates, in step S5, the digital signal $D(t)$ using conventional digital signal processing techniques. The demodulated digital signal is then processed by a despreading module 131 which despreads, in step S7, the audio data. This despreading involves monitoring for the chip sequence corresponding to the SYNC bit which, when detected, is processed to determine the timing of the received chip sequence and the slight frequency offset between the chip rate of the received chip sequence and the chip rate of the pseudo-noise codes generated within the cellular phone 21. In general, there will be a slight frequency offset which

arises from three main causes. The first cause is that many transmission media slightly vary the transmission rate of the audio track, thereby varying the chip rate of the chip sequence conveyed by the audio track. The second cause is that Doppler effects can occur, for example due to movement of the cellular phone 21, which affects the chip rate in the detected signal. Finally, the third main cause is that there is always a slight difference between the clock frequencies used to generate the pseudo-noise codes in the encoder 5 and the cellular phone 21. The despreading module 131 is then able to determine from the received chip sequence transitions between the pseudo-noise codes PN0 and PN1, thereby recovering the modified data signal.

The recovered modified data signal is then processed by a data signal regenerator 132 which recovers, in step S9, the original data signal $F(t)$ by removing the synchronisation bit and decoding the remaining (15,7) BCH code, thereby recovering the URL associated with the television programme. After the URL has been recovered, the data signal regenerator 132 outputs, in step S11, a signal to a signal generator 133 which sends a control signal to a display driver 134 which in turn outputs a drive signal to the display 29 causing the display 29 to show a message received indicator. The message received indicator enables the user of the cellular phone 21 to see that further information about the television program is available from the internet. The data signal regenerator 132 also stores the URL in the RAM 123.

The processor 115 then waits, in step S13, for the user to request further information. If the user does not request further information within a preset time, the routine returns to step S3. If, however, the user selects the menu option for requesting further

information then this selection is input to the keyboard interface 135 which sends a signal to a browser 136 causing the browser 136 to access, in step S15, the web page corresponding to the URL conveyed by the original data signal $F(t)$. In particular, the browser retrieves the URL from the RAM 123 and outputs a baseband signal, via the RF_OUT output, which is converted to an RF signal by the RF processor unit 121 and is broadcast by the antenna 27.

Subsequently, a RF signal conveying web page data for the IP address is detected by the antenna 27 and converted to a baseband signal by the RF processor unit 121, and the baseband signal is input to the RF_IN input of the processor 115. In the processor 115, the web page data is processed by the browser 136 which sends the web page data to the display driver 134 which in turn outputs, in step S17, a drive signal causing the display 29 to display the received web page.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that processors typically used in digital cellular phones are well suited to be programmed to perform the digital signal processing required in the monitor mode.

As described above, in the first embodiment a cellular phone 21 retrieves from the acoustic signal 19 corresponding to the audio track of a television program an IP address for a web page associated with that program so that the user of the cellular phone can download additional information about the television program. By using spread spectrum encoding techniques to generate a spread signal and by shaping the spread signal in dependence upon the power spectrum of the audio track, the data embedded within the audio track can be hidden from a listener. An advantage of encoding the data

signal within the acoustic signal is that the bandwidth required to electronically transmit the audio track after the data signal has been encoded therein is no more than that required to transmit the audio track by itself.

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In the first embodiment, a 2 kHz carrier signal is modulated using phase shift keying in accordance with the logic signal $I(t)$ to produce a spread signal $G(t)$ having a power spectrum with a main band spread between 0 and 4 kHz. However, the energy spectrum of the audio track could be concentrated in a frequency range away from 2kHz, in which case the power level of the shaped signal (and hence the signal to noise ratio) needs to be low if the data signal is not to be noticed by a listener. A second embodiment will now be described with reference to Figures 8 and 9 in which the encoder of the first embodiment is replaced by an alternative encoder in which the frequency of the carrier wave is varied in accordance with the frequency spectrum of the audio track, and the software stored in the ROM of the cellular phone is modified to account for this variation in frequency during decoding. The remaining components of the signalling system of the second embodiment are the same as those of the first embodiment and will not therefore be described again.

Figure 8 shows the main components of the encoder 163 of the second embodiment. In Figure 8, components which are the same as corresponding components of the encoder of the first embodiment have been referenced with the same numerals and will not be described again. As shown, the audio track is input to a spectrum analyser 164 which monitors the frequency spectrum of the audio track. In particular, the spectrum analyser 164 monitors the energy in 2048 frequency sub-bands, each corresponding to 10 Hz, and determines the set of 200 adjacent frequency sub-

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bands which has the greatest energy. The spectrum analyser 164 then outputs a control signal to a modulator 165 to adjust the frequency of the local oscillator so that the carrier signal is in the centre of the frequency range corresponding to the identified set of frequency sub-bands. The modulated signal $G(t)$ output by the modulator 165 is then shaped and combined with the audio track to form the modified audio track in the same manner as described above in the first embodiment.

In this embodiment, the cellular phone is substantially as described in the first embodiment except that when the processor is configured for the monitor mode, the demodulator 130 shown in Figure 7A is in effect replaced by the demodulator module 166 shown in Figure 9. As shown, the digital signal $D(t)$ received at the AUDIO_IN input is processed by a spectrum analyser 167 which determines, in the same manner as the spectrum analyser 164, the frequency spectrum of the digital signal $D(t)$ and outputs a signal identifying the centre frequency. The digital signal $D(t)$ is also delayed by a time delay module 168 and then processed by a demodulator 169 whose carrier frequency is controlled by the signal output by the spectrum analyser 167 to match the centre frequency. The purpose of the time delay unit 168 is to ensure that each part of the digital signal $D(t)$ is demodulated using the carrier frequency calculated for that part. The demodulated signal output by the demodulator 169 is processed by the despreading module 131 and the process continues as described with reference to Figures 7A and 7B.

In this embodiment, the carrier frequency is varied so that the main band of the modulated signal $G(t)$ is moved to a frequency range in which the energy of the audio track is relatively large. This has the effect that the

scaling factors determined by the shaping unit 61 are generally larger than if the carrier frequency was kept constant. In this way, the power of the shaped signal $S(t)$ is increased.

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In the first and second embodiments, the modulated signal $G(t)$ is combined with the audio track after having been scaled in order to reduce its noticeability in the modified audio track. A third embodiment will now be described with reference to Figures 10 and 11 in which the encoder of the first embodiment is replaced by an alternative encoder which removes part of the audio track, shapes the modulated signal $G(t)$ to approximate the removed part of the audio track, and then adds the shaped signal to the remaining part of the audio track. The remaining components of the signalling system of the third embodiment are the same as those for the first embodiment and will not therefore be described again.

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Figure 10 shows the main components of the audio mixer 171 of the third embodiment. As shown, the audio track is input to a linear predictive coding (LPC) unit 173 which uses conventional linear predictive coding techniques to analyse the audio track. Linear predictive coding takes advantage of the fact that for many sounds the power at any instant is strongly dependent on the power in preceding instants in order to generate a small number of linear prediction (LP) coefficients, sometimes called predictors, from which the sound can be reproduced. In particular, a block of samples is analysed to determine the LP coefficients a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n which, when used in the equation:

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$$s(k) = a_1 s(k-1) + a_2 s(k-2) + \dots + a_n s(k-n) + \xi(k) \quad (1)$$

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where $s(k)$ is the value of the k -th sample, give the

smallest set of error values $x(k)$ for the block.

In this embodiment, the LPC unit 173 splits the audio track into blocks of 2048 samples and determines, using
5 a maximum likelihood algorithm, a set of 10 LP coefficients for each block. These 10 LP coefficients model (through equation (1) above) the tonal components of the audio track to be regenerated. The determined LP coefficients are output by the LPC unit 173 and input to
10 a conventional synthesis unit 175 which for each sample synthesises, using the LP coefficients and equation (1) above, a predicted sample value corresponding to $s(k) - \xi(k)$. The sequence of predicted values output by the synthesis unit 175 form a tonal part $P(t)$ of the audio
15 track.

The audio track is also input to a time delay unit 177 which introduces a time delay corresponding to the processing time required to analyse the audio track in
20 the LPC unit 173 and to synthesize the tonal part $P(t)$ in the synthesis unit 175. The output of the time delay unit 177 and the output of the synthesis unit 175 are input to a subtractor 179 in which the tonal part $P(t)$ is subtracted sample by sample from the actual audio
25 track so that the subtractor 179 outputs a noise part $N(t)$ which corresponds to the error values $\xi(k)$, in other words the random part of the audio track (sometimes referred to as the residue, the residual part or the atonal part).

30 The noise part $N(t)$ is input to a first FFT unit 181 which splits the noise part $N(t)$ into blocks each having 2048 samples, using conventional windowing and overlapping techniques, and outputs for each block 2048
35 frequency-dependent coefficients corresponding to the energy in 2048 frequency sub-bands. Similarly, the

modulated signal $G(t)$ is input to a second FFT unit 183 which, in the same manner as the first FFT unit 181, splits the modulated signal $G(t)$ into blocks of 2048 samples and generates 2048 coefficients corresponding to the energy in 2048 frequency sub-bands for each block. The 2048 coefficients output by the second FFT unit 183 are input to a multiplier 185. The 2048 coefficients output by the first FFT unit 181 are input to a scaling unit 187 which calculates and outputs 2048 scaling factors which are input to the multiplier 185 where the coefficient for each frequency sub-band of the modulated signal $G(t)$ is multiplied by the corresponding scaling factor for that frequency sub-band determined from the noise part $N(t)$. The scaling unit 187 applies a scaling algorithm to calculate the scaling factors so that when the scaled coefficients output by the multiplier 189 are input to an IFFT unit 189, which generates a shaped signal $S(t)$ using the scaled coefficients, the shaped signal $S(t)$ approximates the noise part $N(t)$.

The tonal part $P(t)$ output by the synthesis unit 175 is also input to a time delay unit 191 which delays the tonal part $P(t)$ by a time corresponding to the time required to generate and process the noise part $N(t)$ and to scale the modulated signal $G(t)$ using the noise part $N(t)$ to generate the shaped signal $S(t)$. The output of the time delay unit 191 and the shaped signal $S(t)$ are then input to an adder 193 which performs a linear adding operation to generate the modified audio track. In this way, the noise part $N(t)$ of the audio track is replaced by a version of the modulated signal $G(t)$ which has been shaped to approximate the noise part $N(t)$ of the audio track in order to form the modified audio track.

Figures 11A to 11F are plots which illustrate the signals at different points in the audio mixer 171. Figure 11A

shows the audio track which is input to the audio mixer 171. Figure 11B shows the tonal part $P(t)$ which is output by the synthesis unit 175 and Figure 11C shows the noise part $N(t)$ which is obtained by subtracting the tonal part $P(t)$ from the audio track. Figure 11D shows the modulated signal $G(t)$ input to the audio mixer 171 and Figure 11E shows the shaped signal $S(t)$ output by the IFFT unit 191. Figure 11F shows the modified audio track formed by adding the tonal part $P(t)$ shown in Figure 11B and the shaped signal $S(t)$ shown in Figure 11E. A comparison of Figures 11A and 11F shows that the profile of the modified audio track is approximately the same as the profile of the original audio track.

In the third embodiment, the noise part of the audio track, which is particularly associated with hiss-like sounds, is removed from the audio track and replaced by the shaped signal $S(t)$. A fourth embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to Figure 12 in which the encoder of the first embodiment is replaced by an encoder which modifies the relative amplitudes of the audio track and the shaped signal in dependence upon the level of tonality of the audio track. The remaining components of the fourth embodiment are identical to those of the first embodiment and will not therefore be described again.

Figure 12 shows the main components of the audio mixer 195 of the fourth embodiment. As shown, the audio track is input to a first FFT unit 197 which splits the audio track into blocks of 2048 samples using conventional overlapping and windowing techniques and, for each block, determines the energy in 2048 frequency sub-bands to generate 2048 coefficients which are output to a scaling unit 199 and a spectrum analyser 201. The scaling unit 199 applies the same scaling algorithm as that used in

the third embodiment to generate 2048 scaling factors which are output to a multiplier 203.

5 The modulated signal $G(t)$ is input to a second FFT unit 205 which, in the same manner as the first FFT unit 197, splits the modulated signal $G(t)$ into blocks of 2048 samples and for each block generates 2048 coefficients corresponding to the energy in 2048 frequency sub-bands which match the frequency sub-bands for the first FFT
10 unit. The 2048 coefficients output by the second FFT unit 205 are input to the multiplier 203 where each coefficient is multiplied by the scaling factor, output by the scaling unit 199, for its respective frequency sub-band. The 2048 scaled coefficients output by the
15 multiplier 203 are input to an IFFT unit 207 which generates the shaped signal $S(t)$ from the scaled coefficients.

20 The spectrum analyser 201 determines the level of tonality of each block of the audio track from the 2048 coefficients output by the first FFT unit 197. In particular, this is achieved by statistically analysing the 2048 coefficients to determine if a tonal signal is present, which will be indicated by peaks in a small
25 number of frequency sub-bands, or if no tonal signal is present in which case the frequency coefficients for the sub-bands will vary more randomly. The spectrum analyser 201 then outputs a signal indicative of the level of tonality which, in this embodiment, is a four bit binary
30 number which varies from 0000 for when the audio track is almost purely noise-like to 1111 when the audio track is almost purely tonal.

35 The audio track is also input to a time delay unit 209 which delays the audio track for a time corresponding to the time required to analyse a portion of the audio track

and generate the shaped signal $S(t)$ for that portion. The output of the time delay unit 209, the shaped signal $S(t)$, and the four bit binary number output by the spectrum analyser 201 are input to respective input ports of a variable combiner 211. In the variable combiner 211, the delayed audio track is input to a variable amplifier 213a where it is multiplied by a gain factor G determined from the four bit number output by the spectrum analyser 201, and the shaped signal $S(t)$ is input to a second variable amplifier 213b where it is multiplied by a gain factor of $(1-G)$. The outputs of the first and second variable amplifiers 213 are then added together by an adder 215 to generate the modified audio track.

In the fourth embodiment, the audio track and the shaped signal $S(t)$ are weighted in accordance with the level of tonality of the audio track and then added together to form the modified audio track. In particular, the more noise-like the audio track the greater the proportion of the modified audio track which is formed by the shaped signal $S(t)$. Further, in the third embodiment the noise-like part of the audio track is removed and replaced by the shaped signal $S(t)$. However, a problem with the third and fourth embodiments is that if the audio track is very tonal then the noise-like part is small and the shaped signal $S(t)$ cannot be added at sufficiently high signal levels for it to be reliably decoded in the decoder. Therefore, if the audio track is very tonal, the psycho-acoustic shaping technique described in the first embodiment is preferred.

A fifth embodiment will now be described with reference to Figure 13 in which the encoder of the first embodiment is replaced by an alternative encoder which combines the psycho-acoustic shaping technique described in the first

embodiment, the linear predictive coding technique described in the third embodiment and the weighting technique described in the fourth embodiment. In the encoder of the fifth embodiment, a user is able to set parameters which determine the nature of the encoding. This is advantageous because the masking ability of the audio track is subjective and therefore better masking is generally obtained if the user can set the encoding parameters than if the encoding parameters were automatically set. The remaining components of the fifth embodiment are identical to those of the first embodiment and will not therefore be described again.

Figure 13 shows the main components of the audio mixer 217 of the fifth embodiment. Components which are the same as corresponding components in the audio mixer of the third embodiment have been referenced with the same numerals and will not be described again. As shown, the audio track is input to the LPC unit 173 which determines and outputs LP coefficients corresponding to the tonal part $P(t)$ for sequential blocks of 2048 samples. In this embodiment, a user interface 218 is provided via which a user can set the number of LP coefficients used in the LPC unit 173. In response to the user setting the number of LP coefficients, the user interface 218 outputs a control signal to the LPC unit 173 which causes the LPC unit 173 to use the selected number of LP coefficients.

As in the third embodiment, the noise part $N(t)$ is obtained by inputting the LP coefficients output by the LPC unit 173 to a synthesis unit 175 in order to generate the tonal part $P(t)$, and then subtracting the tonal part $P(t)$ from the audio track using the subtracter 179. In this embodiment, the noise part $N(t)$ is input, via a time delay unit 219, to a first input port of a variable combiner 220 as well as to the first FFT unit 181.

The coefficients output by the first FFT unit 181 are input to a scaling unit 221 which applies a psycho-acoustic algorithm, using channel descriptors from a channel descriptors memory 222, to generate 2048 scaling factors which are input to the multiplier 185 to multiply
5 respective ones of the 2048 coefficients output by the second FFT unit 183 to generate the scaled coefficients for forming the shaped signal $S(t)$. In this embodiment, the user is able to set the level of the psycho-acoustic encoding via the user interface 218. In particular, the
10 scaling unit applies a psycho-acoustic filter and, in response to the user setting the level of the psycho-acoustic encoding, the user interface outputs a control signal which determines the bandwidth of the psycho-
15 acoustic filter (i.e. the number of neighbouring frequency sub-bands and blocks of data samples whose energy is taken into account when determining the scaling factors). If the highest level of psycho-acoustic
20 encoding is desired, then the bandwidth is set so that the scaling unit 221 effectively acts in the same manner as the scaling unit of the first embodiment. If, however, the lowest level of psycho-acoustic encoding is desired, then the bandwidth is set so that the scaling
25 unit 221 effectively acts in the same manner as the scaling unit of the third embodiment.

The shaped signal $S(t)$ output by the IFFT unit 189 is input to a second input port of the variable combiner 220. In this embodiment, a user is able to select using
30 the user interface 218 the gain factor G used in the variable combiner 220, in response to which the user interface 218 outputs a signal to a third input port of the variable combiner 220. In the variable combiner 220, the delayed noise part $N(t)$ is input to a variable
35 amplifier 223a where it is multiplied by the gain factor G and the shaped signal $S(t)$ is input to a second

variable amplifier 223b where it is multiplied by a gain factor $(1-G)$. The output of the first and second variable amplifiers 223 are then added together by an adder 224 to form a modified noise part $N'(t)$. The purpose of the time delay unit 219 is to ensure that each portion of the noise part $N(t)$ is combined in the variable combiner 220 with the portion of the shaped signal $S(t)$ which was shaped using that portion of the noise part $N(t)$.

The tonal part $P(t)$ output by the synthesis unit 175 is input, via a time delay unit 225, to the adder 195 along with the output of the variable combiner 220. The adder 195 performs a simple linear addition to generate the modified audio track. The purpose of the time delay unit 225 is to ensure that the tonal part $P(t)$ is synchronised with the modified noise part $N'(t)$.

In this embodiment, the audio mixer 217 allows a user to adjust the encoding in accordance with the tonality of the audio track to improve the masking of the data by the audio track. For example, if there is only a small atonal portion to the audio track, the user can reduce the number of LP coefficients used by the LPC unit 173 in order to increase the energy in the noise part $N(t)$ because less of the audio track is modelled by the LPC unit 173. Reducing the number of LP coefficients also has the effect of increasing the tonal features within the noise part $N(t)$. In the extreme case, the number of LP coefficients can be set to 0 so that the noise part $N(t)$ is the same as the audio track. As the tonal features within the noise part $N(t)$ increase, the user can set the scaling unit 221 to apply a wider bandwidth psycho-acoustic filter to take advantage of the masking ability of these tonal features. The user can subsequently set the gain factor G of the variable

combiner to 0.9 so that 90% of the modified noise part $N'(t)$ is formed by the noise part $N(t)$ and 10% of the modified noise part $N'(t)$ is formed by the shaped signal $S(t)$. If, however, the audio track is predominantly atonal, then the user can increase the number of coefficients used by the LPC unit 173, decrease the bandwidth of the psycho-acoustic filter applied by the scaling unit 221 and set the value of the gain factor G of the variable combiner 220 to zero so that the modified noise part $N'(t)$ is identical to the shaped signal $S(t)$.

In this embodiment the user can adjust the number of coefficients of the LPC unit 173, the bandwidth of the psycho-acoustic filter and the gain factor G freely. This allows the user to determine, for a required signal to noise ratio, the set-up for which the modified audio track is, in the opinion of the user, most similar to the original audio track.

In the first to fifth embodiments, a data signal conveying a URL identifying a website associated with a television program is input to an encoder in which the data signal is spread and mixed with the audio track for the television program prior to the television program being broadcast over a conventional television network. A cellular phone then recovers the URL from the acoustic signals output by a television tuned to the television program so that the user of the cellular phone, if desired, can download the web page to the cellular phone. The first to fifth embodiments describe different techniques for encoding the data signal within the audio track.

Alternative embodiments will now be described in which the encoder is incorporated within a cellular phone so that a data stream can be encoded within an acoustic

signal emitted by the cellular phone.

Figure 14 illustrates a sixth embodiment of the invention in which a first cellular phone 401_1 emits an acoustic signal 403, having encoded therein user data associated with the user of the first cellular phone 401_1, from a loudspeaker 25_1. In this embodiment, the user data includes the name of the user and the telephone number of the first cellular phone 401_1. The emitted acoustic signal 403 is detected by a second cellular phone 401_2, using a microphone 23_2, and the second cellular phone 401_2 then decodes and stores the user data. In particular, the name of the user of the first cellular phone 401_1 is stored along with the telephone number of the first cellular phone 401_1 in a "phone book" stored in the second cellular phone 401_2. Similarly, the second cellular phone 401_2 emits an acoustic signal conveying user data associated with the user of the second cellular phone 401_2 from a loudspeaker 25_2 for detection and decoding by the first cellular phone 401_1.

It will be appreciated that transmitting user data in this manner removes the requirement of inputting names and phone numbers via the keypad 31 of the cellular phone 401, which is generally a slow and awkward process because the keys of the keypad 31 are small.

Figure 15 schematically illustrates the main components of the cellular phone 401 of the sixth embodiment. In Figure 15, components which are identical to corresponding components of the cellular phone of the first embodiment have been referenced by the same reference numerals and will not be described again.

As shown, in this embodiment the processor 411 of the cellular phone 401 has an AUDIO_OUT output and a DATA_OUT

output which are connected to respective inputs of an encoder 413. In this embodiment, the only difference between the encoder 413 and the encoder of the first embodiment is that the modulator of the encoder 413 does not include a re-sampling circuit because the digital signal output via the AUDIO_OUT output of the processor 411 has a sample rate of 8 kHz. The output of the encoder 413 is connected to the input of the DAC 117. In this way, user data output via the DATA_OUT output of the processor 411 is encoded within an audio track output by the AUDIO_OUT output to form a modified audio track.

In the cellular phone 401 of this embodiment, the digital signal $D(t)$ output from the ADC 113 is input to a decoder 415 as well as the AUDIO_IN input of the processor 411. In this embodiment, the decoder 415 is substantially as described in International Patent Publication WO 01/10065, whose contents are herein incorporated by reference. The decoder 415 recovers user data encoded within the digital signal $D(t)$ and outputs the recovered user data to a DATA_IN input of the processor 411. In this way, user data conveyed by an acoustic signal from another cellular phone 401 can be decoded for processing by the processor 411.

In this embodiment, the user data associated with the user of the cellular phone 401 is stored in the NVRAM 125 and the ROM 127 stores a sub-routine which, in response to the user selecting a menu option using the menu keys 33, causes the processor 411 to output, via the DATA_OUT output, the user data and to output, via the AUDIO_OUT output, a preset audio sequence. The purpose of the preset audio sequence is to provide an audible indication to the user that the data transfer is taking place. In the encoder 413, the user data is spread, modulated and

shaped as described in the first embodiment before being added to the preset audio sequence to form a modified audio sequence. The modified audio sequence output by the encoder 413 is input to the DAC 117 where it is converted into an analogue signal which is amplified by the amplifier 119 and output as an acoustic wave by the loudspeaker 25.

When the cellular phone 401 detects, using the microphone 23, an acoustic wave conveying user data, the user data is decoded by the decoder 415 and input, via the DATA_IN input, to the processor 411. In response to the user data being input, the processor 411 runs a sub-routine stored in the ROM 127 which extracts the user name and phone number from the user data and stores the extracted user name and phone number as an entry in a look-up table within the NVRAM 125. In this embodiment, the NVRAM 125 can store up to 100 entries which form an electronic phone book.

In the sixth embodiment, data is transferred between two cellular phones 401 via an acoustic communications link. However, cellular phones could also use an acoustic communications link to transmit data signals to other electronic devices. A seventh embodiment will now be described with reference to Figures 16 to 19 in which a cellular phone encodes a control signal within an emitted acoustic signal; a toy detects the acoustic signal, recovers the control signal and responds in accordance with the control signal in a manner discernable to humans.

As shown in Figure 16, a caller 423 uses a telephone handset 427, connected to a telecommunications network 429, to phone the user (not shown) of the cellular phone 421. The call is routed by the telecommunications

network to a base station 431, which covers the area in which the cellular phone 421 is currently located, and the base station 431 outputs a RF signal 433 which is detected by the antenna of the cellular phone 421. Included in the RF signal 433 is identification data identifying the phone number of the handset 427. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that such identification data is sent in many conventional telephone systems. In this embodiment, the cellular phone 421 determines from the incoming RF signal 433 the telephone number of the handset 427, retrieves from a look-up table a control signal identifier associated with the determined telephone number, and encodes the control signal corresponding to the control signal identifier within a ring tone which is output as an acoustic signal 435.

In this embodiment, the acoustic signal 435 is detected by a microphone 437 in an electronic toy 425. As shown in Figure 16, the electronic toy 425 includes two arms 439a, 439b and a face formed by: a nose 441; two eyes 443a, 443b; an articulated mouth 445; and two articulated eyebrows 447a, 447b. The electronic toy 425 also includes a loudspeaker 449. The toy 425 decodes the control signal within the ring tone emitted by the cellular phone 421 and responds by outputting a sound via the loudspeaker 449 and by moving the mouth 445 and the eyebrows 447 to form an expression in accordance with the recovered control signal.

Figure 17 shows the main components of the cellular phone 421 of the seventh embodiment. In Figure 17, components which are identical to corresponding components of the cellular phone of the first embodiment have been referenced by the same reference numerals and will not be described again. As shown, the processor 461 has a

DATA_OUT output which is connected to a first input of an encoder 463 and the AUDIO_OUT output of the processor 461 is connected to a second input of the encoder 463. In this embodiment, the encoder 463 is identical to the encoder of the sixth embodiment. The encoder 463 encodes a data signal output via the DATA_OUT output of the processor 461 within an audio signal output via the AUDIO_OUT output of the processor 461 to form a modified audio signal which is converted into an analog signal by the DAC 117, and the analog signal is then amplified by the amplifier 119 prior to being converted into an acoustic signal by the loudspeaker 25.

Figure 18 shows the functional configuration of the processor 461 when a signal initiating a telephone call is first received via the antenna 27. As shown, the received signal is input to a ring signal generator 471 which generates a ring signal which is output via the AUDIO_OUT output of the processor 461. The received signal is also input to a phone number extractor 473 which determines from the received signal the telephone number of the caller. The determined telephone number is processed by a response retriever 475 which accesses a response identifier corresponding to the determined telephone number from a response storage region 477 of the NVRAM 125. As shown, the response storage region 477 is in the form of a look-up table which stores a plurality of telephone numbers along with corresponding response identifiers. In this embodiment, there are three possible responses which have response identifiers A, B and C respectively. When the response retriever 475 has retrieved a response identifier from the response storage region 477, the retrieved response identifier is processed by a data signal generator 479 which generates a corresponding control signal which is output via the DATA_OUT output of the processor 461.

As described above, the acoustic signal 435 is detected by a microphone 437 of an electronic toy 425 which converts the acoustic signal into an electrical signal. Figure 19 schematically shows the main components of the electronic circuitry within the toy 425. As shown, the electrical signal output by the microphone 437 is input to an anti-aliasing filter 491 before being converted into a digital signal by a DAC 493. The digital signal output by the DAC 493 is input to a decoder 495 which recovers the control signal. In this embodiment, the decoder 495 is identical to the decoder for the sixth embodiment.

The recovered control signal is input to a processor 497 which is connected to a RAM 499, which provides working memory, and a ROM 501 which stores routines which are executed in response to the control signal. A first output of the processor 497 is connected to a first motor drive circuit 503 which outputs drive signals to an eyebrows motor 505 for causing movement of the articulated eyebrows 447. A second output of the processor 497 is connected to a second motor drive circuit 507 which outputs drive signals to a mouth motor 509 for causing movement of the articulated mouth 445. A third output of the processor 497 is connected, via a DAC 511 and an amplifier 513, to a loudspeaker 515.

In operation, receipt of a control signal activates a corresponding routine stored in the ROM 501 associated with the control signal which causes the processor 497 to output a signal to the motor drive circuit 503, causing the motor drive circuit 503 to drive the eyebrows motor 505 to move the articulated eyebrows 447, and outputs a signal to the second motor drive circuit 507 causing the second motor drive circuit 507 to output a drive signal to the mouth motor 509 to move the

articulated mouth 445. In this way, the desired expression corresponding to the control signal is formed. Further, an audio signal associated with the control signal is output by the processor 497 to the DAC 511 where it is converted into an analog signal which is then amplified by the amplifier 513 before being output as an acoustic signal by the loudspeaker 449. As shown in Figure 16, the control signal associated with the user 423 causes the facial expression of the toy 425 to become a frown, and the audio signal associated with the user 423 is a groan.

In the seventh embodiment, a cellular phone determines a control signal associated with the telephone number of a caller and combines the control signal with the ring tone for detection by the toy 425. However, control signals could also be transmitted to a cellular phone over a telecommunications network for transmission by the cellular phone as an acoustic signal for subsequent detection and processing by an electronic device. An eighth embodiment will now be described with reference to Figures 20 and 21 in which the facial expression of, and sounds output by, the toy 425 of the seventh embodiment are altered in accordance with control signals which are transmitted, using the Short Message Service (SMS) defined in the Global System for Mobile communication (GSM) specification, over the telecommunications network 429 to a cellular phone. In Figure 20, components which are identical to corresponding components in Figure 16 have been referenced with the same numerals and will not be described again.

As shown in Figure 20, a computer system 521 is connected to a modem 523 via which the computer system 521 sends signals over the telecommunications network 429. In

response to a user of the computer system 521 indicating a control signal to be sent to the cellular phone 525, a corresponding control signal identifier is output, using the modem 523, in the form of an SMS message to the telecommunications network 429 which routes the SMS message to the base station 431 covering the location of the cellular phone 525. The base station 431 then emits an RF signal 433 conveying the SMS message for detection by the cellular phone 525.

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In this embodiment, the hardware components of the cellular phone 525 are identical to those of the cellular phone described with reference to Figure 17 for the seventh embodiment. However, in this embodiment the ROM in the cellular phone 525 includes a routine which, in response to an SMS message conveying a control signal identifier, retrieves the control signal identifier from the SMS message and outputs the corresponding control signal and a preset audio signal via the DATA_OUT and AUDIO_OUT outputs of the processor respectively.

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Figure 21 shows the functional configuration of the processor of the cellular phone when processing a received SMS message conveying a control signal identifier. The SMS message is processed by a SMS message analyser 531 which retrieves the control signal identifier. The SMS message analyser then causes an audio signal generator 535 to output the preset audio signal via the AUDIO_OUT output of the processor and a data signal generator 533 to output the control signal corresponding to the control signal identifier from the processor via the DATA_OUT output. The encoder then combines the control signal with the preset audio signal to form a modified audio signal which is output as the acoustic signal 435. In this embodiment, the preset audio signal is only used to alert the user of the

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cellular phone that a control signal is being sent.

5 In this embodiment, the toy 425 detects the acoustic signal 435 and responds in the same manner as described in the seventh embodiment.

MODIFICATIONS AND FURTHER EMBODIMENTS

10 In the first to eighth embodiments, an acoustic data channel is used to either input data into or output data from a cellular phone. The addition of an acoustic data channel to a cellular phone has many advantages, for example:

- 15 1. The cellular phone is already equipped with a microphone and a loudspeaker which can be used for the acoustic data channel. Therefore, the weight of the cellular phone does not need be significantly increased.
- 20 2. The processors typically used in most digital cellular phones are well suited to be programmed to carry out software routines for encoding and/or decoding data within the acoustic data channel.
- 25 3. Acoustic communication techniques are well suited for short range communication, particularly as they are not subject to the same regulatory requirements as RF communication techniques.
- 30 4. There are already established networks for distributing acoustic signals, for example television and radio networks.
- 35 5. Many people carry a cellular phone on their person virtually all the time. It therefore provides an

ideal communication route for data which are dependent upon the location of a person.

5 6. Using an acoustic link to cellular phones enables
data to be targeted to people within a specific
location, for example a particular building via a
public address system within the building, or
listeners to a particular audio source, for example
a particular radio network. This is advantageous
10 both to the data supplier, because data is supplied
efficiently, and to the user of the cellular phone,
because only data which is likely to be useful is
received.

15 7. Using an acoustic communication technique to input
data into a cellular phone is generally more
convenient than inputting data using the keys of
the cellular phone because the keys are generally
small.

20
As those skilled in the art will appreciate, some of the
above-described advantages also arise with other portable
telephones, such as cordless telephones which communicate
with a base station directly connected to a public
25 switched telephone network (PSTN), or even a standard
telephone which is directly connected to a PSTN. Those
skilled in the art will also appreciate that the
telephone could be incorporated as part of another
device, for example a personal digital assistant (PDA).

30
As described above in the first to fifth embodiments, the
invention is particularly well suited to so-called
"smart" phones which have some data processing capability
in addition to voice call handling capability because the
35 acoustic communication techniques can be used, for
example, to control the accessing of data or to output

signals in accordance with received data. In the first to fifth embodiments, the cellular phone is able to download data from the internet using the Wireless Application Protocol. Other types of "smart" phone include those employing the i-MODE system, "Java phones" which have incorporated therein the Java 2 Platform Micro Edition (J2ME), and the future 3G cellular phones.

In the first to fifth embodiments, a user is able to download a web page from the internet about a television programme using a cellular phone. In particular, a URL for the web page is encoded within the audio track of the television programme. In this way the acoustic data channel is used to establish a link between the cellular phone and the web page.

The URL encoded within the television programme could relate to a web page specifically mentioned in the television programme as a source of further information. Alternatively, the URL could be for a "hidden" web page whose existence is not generally broadcast and therefore can only be accessed by suitably enabled cellular phones. For example, a feature film could have encoded within its soundtrack a URL for a web page having cast interviews etc.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that another form of web page identifier could be encoded within the audio track instead of the URL. For example, a combination of the Internet Protocol address of the server storing the web page and index data identifying the desired web page to the server could be used.

In an alternative embodiment, a proprietary web page identifier is encoded within the audio track and on receiving an acoustic signal conveying a proprietary web

page identifier, the cellular phone accesses a database storing a look-up table associating a plurality of proprietary web page identifiers with associated IP addresses and/or URLs. In this way, the data location of the web page associated with the received proprietary web page identifier is determined. The database could be located either in the cellular phone or at a remote server which the cellular phone accesses using the cellular telecommunications network. If the database is stored in the cellular phone, the database can be periodically updated, for example by sending new data using a SMS message.

If the proprietary database is located at a remote server, on receiving a proprietary web page identifier the remote server can either send the corresponding IP address/URL back to the cellular phone or forward to the server corresponding to the IP address/URL a request to download data directly to the cellular phone. An advantage of using a remote server to store the database of proprietary web page identifiers and associated IP addresses is that the number of times the server is accessed by the user of the cellular phone can be monitored. This enables the television programme maker to assess the usefulness of encoding the web pages within the television programme. Further, by monitoring the number of times the user of the cellular phone accesses the server, a loyalty scheme can be established in which the user receives rewards, for example free gifts, for frequent use. In particular, if the user accesses the database a predetermined number of times then a reward is given. This encourages the user of the cellular phone to make use of the server.

For the first to fifth embodiments, the television signal need not be broadcast using a transmitter but could be

sent to the television set along a cable network or via a satellite. It will also be appreciated that the invention could also be applied to a radio signal, whether broadcast using a transmitter or sent along a cable network. Further these techniques can be applied to a point-to-point communication system as well as broadcast systems. In addition, conventional encryption techniques could be used so that the television or radio signal could only be reproduced after processing by decryption circuitry.

In an embodiment, the data signal added to a broadcast audio track includes a source identifier and a time stamp. The source identifier identifies the source of the audio track, for example which radio station or television station or film the audio track is from, and the time stamp identifies the point of time during the broadcast, for example the actual time of day or just the track number of the audio track. The user of the cellular phone is then able to transmit, via cellular communications network, the source identifier and the time stamp to a remote server which stores a data base identifying for each combination of source identifier and time stamp the title of the music being played. The remote server then transmits the title associated with the received source identifier and time stamp to the cellular phone which displays the title to the user of the cellular phone.

As another alternative, the television signal could be stored on a video cassette, a digital versatile disk (DVD), hard disk or the like. In this way, no signal is transmitted through the atmosphere or through a cable network but rather the television signal is stored on a recording medium which is subsequently played to a user on the user's television set. Similarly, an audio signal

could be stored on an audio cassette, compact disc (CD) or the like. Further, the audio track could be stored as a computer file, for example an MP3 file, on a hard disk or the like.

5

In the first to fifth embodiments, the monitor mode is activated by the user of the cellular phone. In other embodiments, the monitor mode is activated in response to an external stimulus rather than by the user of the cellular phone. For example, the monitor mode could be activated by a received SMS message. Alternatively, the cellular phone could be configured so that the functionality of the monitor mode is continuously activated.

15

As described above, in the monitor mode a cellular phone monitors for any data signals conveyed by acoustic signals detected by the microphone. In an embodiment, in order to save power during periods when no data signals are detected, the cellular phone can operate in a "power-save" mode in which the cellular phone only periodically checks for data signals rather than continuously checking for data signals. For example, the cellular phone could check for data signals for a period of three seconds and, if no data signals are detected, the cellular phone then waits ten seconds before checking again. The power-save mode could be activated automatically by the cellular phone if no data signal is received for a predetermined time period. Alternatively, the power-save mode could be activated by a user or by an external stimulus.

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In the first to fifth embodiments, the web page whose URL is detected within the audio track of a television programme is accessed by the user of the cellular phone selecting a menu option using menu keys. The accessing

35

of the web page could also be initiated by an external stimulus, for example a command sent using the acoustic data channel. In some applications, the web page is automatically accessed by the cellular phone without requiring any input from the user or an external stimulus, in which case the cellular phone need not store the URL or other web page identifier. For example, in an embodiment a sequence of web page identifiers is encoded within the audio track of a television programme and a cellular phone detects the sequence of web page identifiers and automatically downloads the corresponding web pages. In this way, the cellular phone can display web pages which vary in synchronism with the content of the television programme. Such automatic accessing could be activated in response to a user instruction or an external stimulus, or alternatively the cellular phone could be pre-configured for automatic accessing. Preferably, the user is able to disable the automatic accessing if the user considers the data being downloaded to be irrelevant.

In an alternative embodiment, the user of the cellular phone is able to store a received web page identifier in a NVRAM within the cellular phone for future access by selecting an appropriate menu option.

In the described embodiments, the user inputs an instruction to the cellular phone by accessing a menu option. Examples of user instructions are activating the monitor mode or power-save mode, accessing a web page corresponding to a received web page identifier or instructing the cellular phone to access automatically the web page corresponding to a received web page identifier. Instead of or in addition to such a "soft key" arrangement for entering instructions, the cellular phone could include one or more "hard keys" associated

with the acoustic data channel, i.e. dedicated keys provided on the cellular phone which are each associated with a corresponding instruction. These "hard keys" could be either pre-configured during manufacture of the cellular phone or programmed by the user of the cellular phone. In an alternative embodiment, the cellular phone includes voice recognition software so that instructions can be entered by a user speaking an associated word or phrase into the microphone of the cellular phone.

In the first to fifth embodiments, the data encoded within the audio track of a television programme relates to a web page. Alternatively, the data encoded within the audio track of a television programme could be related to, for example, the title of a musical track being played on the television. This title can then be displayed by the cellular phone. Alternatively, telephone numbers could be encoded within the audio track of a television programme, for example a "prize" telephone number could be encoded which can be automatically dialled during a broadcast to enter a competition.

The acoustic data channel could also be used to transmit gaming information to the cellular phone. For example, for computer games played on the cellular phone which have a multi-level structure with each level being accessed by a password, the passwords could be encoded within an audio track so that they can be downloaded to the cellular phone, via the acoustic data channel, in order to allow access to respective levels. The audio track could be, for example, the audio track of a film associated with the computer game so that people who have seen the film can have access to one or more levels of the computer game. Alternatively clues or tips related to a computer game could be encoded within an audio

track.

In another alternative application, the data signal $F(t)$ encoded within the audio track of a television programme or a radio programme could convey audience survey data identifying the programme being watched and/or listened to by the user of the cellular phone. The use of a cellular phone for audience survey is advantageous for three main reasons. Firstly, the user of a cellular phone tends to carry the cellular phone on their person. The collected audience survey data is therefore associated with a user, rather than a television set or radio as in most automated audience survey systems. Secondly, the cellular phone is able to send the audience survey data for the user automatically, using the cellular communications network, to a remote database where audience survey data from many users is collated and analysed. This provides a simple mechanism for collecting the audience survey data without requiring user involvement. Thirdly, by incorporating the audience survey operation within a cellular phone which the user normally has either on their person or nearby, the user is less aware of the audience survey being performed than if the user has to carry a dedicated audience survey device about on their person, even if the user knows that the cellular phone is collecting audience survey data. This alleviates a common problem with audience surveys that users alter their viewing and/or listening habits in view of the audience survey.

In a preferred embodiment of the audience survey application, as each item of audience survey data is received by the cellular phone it is immediately downloaded, via the cellular telecommunications network, to an audience survey station where it is stored in an audience survey database. In this embodiment, the data

signal is only a channel identifier for the radio station being listened to or the television channel being watched rather than an identifier for a particular programme.

5 Figure 22 shows the main components of the audience survey station 551 for this preferred embodiment. The audience survey station 551 receives an audience survey signal, via a telecommunications network, conveying the phone number of the cellular phone and the channel
10 identifier. The received audience survey signal is input to a controller 553 which retrieves the channel identifier and, using a time signal from a time signal generator 555, determines from a programme database 557 the programme currently being watched by the user of the
15 cellular phone. In particular, the programme database stores the programmes for each channel identifier for each time and therefore the programme being watched can be determined from the time signal and channel identifier. The controller 553 then stores, in the
20 audience survey database 559, data corresponding to the user, who is identified by the telephone number of the cellular phone, and the television programme being watched by the user. In this way, an almost instantaneous result for the audience survey is produced.

25 The acoustic data channel could also be used for opinion polling. For example, a television programme about a subject could have encoded within its audio track questions about the subject which are displayed by the
30 cellular phone. The user is then able to input an answer to the cellular phone which automatically forwards the answer to a remote site where it is collated along with answers from other cellular phones. An advantage of such opinion polling is that the user of the cellular phone
35 only has to press a button to answer a question and therefore it requires less effort by the user than other

telephone opinion polls in which the user has to dial a telephone number, wait for connection and then give a response. This will encourage more people to participate in the opinion poll. For the above example where the opinion poll is associated with a television programme, the result can be given during the television programme. This is an example of how the acoustic data channel can be used to "close the loop" from a broadcaster to a viewer/listener (via a media broadcast) and from the viewer/listener back to the broadcaster (via a telecommunications network).

In another application, data for a quiz is transmitted to the cellular phone using the acoustic data channel. For example, a question is broadcast and detected by a plurality of cellular phones. The respective users of the cellular phones input their answers which are transmitted, via the cellular communications network, back to the originator of the question. A prize could then be awarded for the fastest answer.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that cellular phones which can determine their position are known. For example, the location of the cellular phone can be determined to within five kilometres by identifying the base station of the cellular communications network which is handling the RF communications with the cellular phone. More precise techniques are also known, for example the Enhanced Observed Time Difference (EOTD) technique which is described in US Patent No. 6094168, whose contents are hereby incorporated by reference, and can determine the position of the cellular phone to within about one hundred metres. Alternatively, the cellular phone could use a Global Positioning Systems (GPS) or other satellite-based systems to determine its position to within about ten metres by analysing RF

signals received from satellites. However, the receiver circuitry for such satellite-based position detection systems is relatively expensive.

5 There will now be described a number of acoustic position detection systems which utilise acoustic signals to determine the position of a cellular phone. These acoustic position detection systems are particularly well suited to a cellular phone because the cellular phone
10 already has a microphone and loudspeaker. Further, the processors found in digital cellular phones can typically be programmed to carry out the required position determining calculations.

15 A first acoustic position detection system of the invention will now be described with reference to Figures 23 and 24 in which a cellular phone determines its position from acoustic signals received from loudspeakers in the vicinity of the cellular phone. In the first
20 acoustic position detection system, each of a plurality of loudspeakers within a shopping centre periodically transmits a respective different pseudo-noise code. On entering the shopping centre, the user of the cellular phone downloads into the cellular phone, via the cellular
25 communications network, loudspeaker location data identifying the location and pseudo-noise code for each loudspeaker. Subsequently, the cellular phone is able to determine its position by identifying which loudspeakers are being detected by the cellular phone by
30 their respective pseudo-noise codes.

In the first acoustic position detection system, the hardware components of the cellular phone are identical to those of the cellular phone described with reference
35 to Figure 6 for the first embodiment. However, in this embodiment the ROM in the cellular phone includes a

routine which calculates the position of the cellular phone from received acoustic signals.

Figure 23 is a schematic block diagram showing the functional configuration of the processor 601 of the cellular phone of the first acoustic position detection system for processing digital signals received from the ADC 113 corresponding to acoustic signals received by the microphone 23. As shown, a digital signal from the ADC 113 is processed by an audio processor module 603, a data processor module 605 and a position processor module 607. The audio processor module 603 is a cellular speech CODEC which is used during a telephone call to convert, in a conventional manner, received acoustic signals to a corresponding data stream for transmission, via the cellular telecommunications network, to a remote phone. The data processor module 605 is used to recover data signals embedded within a received acoustic signal as described in the first to fifth embodiments. The position determining module 607 is used to recover position data from received audio signals and to calculate the position of the cellular phone using the recovered position data.

Each of the audio processor module 603, data processor module 605 and position processor module 607 has an output which is connected to a multiplexer unit 609 which multiplexes signals received from the processor modules prior to transmission to the RF processing unit 121, and de-multiplexes signals received from the RF processor unit 121 and directs the de-multiplexed signals to the appropriate processor modules. In Figure 23, only the connections from the processor modules to the ADC 113 and RF processing unit 121 are shown for ease of illustration. It will be appreciated that the processor modules will also be connected to the display 29,

keyboard 31, loudspeaker 25 and the memory.

5 The operation of the position processor module 607 will now be described in more detail with reference to Figure 24 which schematically shows the functional configuration of the position processor module 607.

10 On entering the shopping centre the user of the cellular phone selects a menu option for downloading the loudspeaker location data. In response to the user selection being detected by a keyboard interface 611, a loudspeaker position identifier 613 outputs a signal to the multiplexer 609 requesting loudspeaker location data. The multiplexer 609 forwards the request, via the RF processor unit 121 and the cellular communications network, to a remote server which responds by sending to the cellular phone loudspeaker location data for loudspeakers within the shopping centre back to the cellular phone. On receiving the loudspeaker location data, via the RF processor unit 121 and the multiplexer 609, the loudspeaker position identifier 613 stores the associated location and pseudo-noise code for each loudspeaker in the RAM 123 and forwards the pseudo-noise codes to a loudspeaker identifier 617.

25 Subsequently, digital signals from the ADC 113 corresponding to received acoustic signals are demodulated by a demodulator 615 using a conventional digital signal processing technique and then are processed by the loudspeaker identifier 617 to detect the presence of any of the pseudo-noise codes received with the loudspeaker location data. In particular the loudspeaker identifier 617 correlates the demodulated signal with each of the pseudo-noise codes of the loudspeaker location data in order to determine which pseudo-noise codes are present.

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The detected pseudo-noise codes are then processed by a position calculator 619 which interrogates the loudspeaker position identifier 613 to retrieve the loudspeaker locations corresponding to the detected pseudo-noise codes from the RAM 123. The position calculator 619 then determines the position of the cellular phone from the retrieved loudspeaker locations. In particular, if only one loudspeaker is detected, then the position calculator 619 assumes that the cellular phone is positioned at the location of the detected loudspeaker. If two loudspeakers are detected, then the position calculator 619 assumes the cellular phone is positioned midway between the locations of the two detected loudspeakers. Similarly, if three or more loudspeakers are detected then the position calculator assumes the cellular phone is positioned at the centroid of the locations of the detected loudspeakers, i.e. the average co-ordinate position of the locations of the detected loudspeakers.

In this embodiment, the position calculator 619 sends a signal identifying the calculated position of the cellular phone to a display driver 621 which causes the calculated position to be displayed to the user of the cellular phone on the display 29. The position identifier 619 also transmits the calculated position to the nearest base station of the cellular communications network which forwards the calculated position to shops within the shopping centre. This enables the shops to identify people in the immediate vicinity of the shop, or even within the shop, and then send advertising data to the identified people. Advertising in this manner is advantageous because people do not have to go a significant distance to get to the shop, and therefore if they are interested by the advertisement they are more likely to visit the shop than if they were a long

distance away.

5 In the first acoustic position detection system, the position of a cellular phone can be determined to within about ten metres if only one loudspeaker is detected, and progressively more accurately as further loudspeakers are detected. An estimated error range can be calculated from the number of different loudspeakers used to calculate the position of the cellular phone. This error
10 range could then be transmitted or displayed along with the calculated position.

15 In the first acoustic position detection system, the position calculator 619 assumes that the cellular phone is positioned at the centroid of the locations of the detected loudspeakers. However, a more accurate determination of the position can be obtained by calculating weighting factors dependent on the strength of the received signal from each loudspeaker, and then
20 performing a weighted addition of the co-ordinate locations of all the detected loudspeakers. The weighting factors can be determined from the magnitude of the correlation peak detected for each loudspeaker in the loudspeaker identifier 617.

25 A second acoustic position detection system will now be described with reference to Figures 25 to 28 in which the position determining technique described in International Patent Application WO 01/34264, whose contents are hereby
30 incorporated by reference, is used to determine the position of the cellular phone.

35 Figure 25 shows a cellular phone 631 in the vicinity of a master beacon 633 which is connected to three slave beacons 635a to 635c by respective cables 637a to 637c. In this embodiment, the master beacon 633 and slave

beacons 635 are dedicated solely to the position detection system. The master beacon 633 and the slave beacons 635 transmit respective acoustic signals 639a to 639d which are detected by the microphone of the cellular phone 631 and are processed by the cellular phone 631 to determine the position of the cellular phone 631.

In the exemplary configuration shown in Figure 25, the cellular phone 631 is substantially in the same plane as the master beacon 633 and the slave beacons 635. As shown in Figure 25, an origin, that is a position (0,0) with respect to which other positions in the plane are determined by their distance away from the origin in perpendicular x and y directions, is defined by the position of the master beacon 633. The cellular phone 631 is at a position (X_p, Y_p) relative to the origin and the slave beacons 635a to 635c are at positions (X_1, Y_1) , (X_2, Y_2) and (X_3, Y_3) respectively relative to the origin. As those skilled in the art will appreciate, the distance r_1 between the cellular phone 631 and the master beacon 633 and distances r_2 , r_3 , and r_4 between the cellular phone 631 and the slave beacon 635a, 635b and 635c respectively are given by:

$$X_p^2 + Y_p^2 = r_1^2 \quad (2)$$

$$(X_1 - X_p)^2 + (Y_1 - Y_p)^2 = r_2^2 \quad (3)$$

$$(X_2 - X_p)^2 + (Y_2 - Y_p)^2 = r_3^2 \quad (4)$$

$$(X_3 - X_p)^2 + (Y_3 - Y_p)^2 = r_4^2 \quad (5)$$

In the second acoustic position detection system, a differential time of flight measurement system is

employed in which the difference between the time required for the acoustic signal 639a to travel from the master beacon 633 to the cellular phone 631 and the time required for each of the acoustic signals 639b to 639d to travel from the corresponding slave beacon 635 to the cellular phone 631 are measured. By multiplying each of these differential times by the speed of the acoustic signals 639, a value representative of the difference in the distance over which the acoustic signals 639 have travelled is obtained. In this way, a value C_{12} is obtained which is equal to the difference between the distance from the cellular phone 631 to the master beacon 633 and the distance from the cellular phone 631 to the slave beacon 635a (i.e. $r_1 - r_2$); a value C_{13} is obtained for the difference between the distance from the cellular phone 631 to the master beacon 633 and the distance from the cellular phone 631 to the slave beacon 635b (i.e. $r_1 - r_3$); and a value C_{14} is obtained for the difference between the distance from the cellular phone 631 to the master beacon 5 and the distance from the cellular phone 631 to the slave beacon 635c (i.e. $r_1 - r_4$).

By inserting C_{12} , C_{13} and C_{14} into Equations 3 to 5 and substituting r_1^2 for $X_p^2 + Y_p^2$ (see Equation 2 above), the following equations can be derived:

$$2C_{12}r_1 - 2X_pX_1 - 2Y_pY_1 = C_{12}^2 - X_1^2 - Y_1^2 \quad (6)$$

$$2C_{13}r_1 - 2X_pX_2 - 2Y_pY_2 = C_{13}^2 - X_2^2 - Y_2^2 \quad (7)$$

$$2C_{14}r_1 - 2X_pX_3 - 2Y_pY_3 = C_{14}^2 - X_3^2 - Y_3^2 \quad (8)$$

30

These equations can be solved, using Cramer's rule (see for example the Penguin Dictionary of Mathematics), to give the following expressions for X_p and Y_p :

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$$X_P = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} C_{12} & X_1^2 + Y_1^2 - C_{12}^2 & Y_1 \\ C_{13} & X_2^2 + Y_2^2 - C_{13}^2 & Y_2 \\ C_{14} & X_3^2 + Y_3^2 - C_{14}^2 & Y_3 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} C_{12} & X_1 & Y_1 \\ 2C_{13} & X_2 & Y_2 \\ C_{14} & X_3 & Y_3 \end{vmatrix}}} \quad (9)$$

$$Y_P = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} C_{12} & X_1 & X_1^2 + Y_1^2 + C_{12}^2 \\ C_{13} & X_2 & X_2^2 + Y_2^2 - C_{13}^2 \\ C_{14} & X_3 & X_3^2 + Y_3^2 - C_{14}^2 \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} C_{12} & X_1 & Y_1 \\ 2C_{13} & X_2 & Y_2 \\ C_{14} & X_3 & Y_3 \end{vmatrix}}} \quad (10)$$

5 A skilled person will therefore appreciate that if the positions of the slave beacons 635 relative to the master beacon 633 and the speed of the acoustic signals 639 are known, and the time differences between the time taken for acoustic signals 639 to travel from each of the slave beacons 635 to the cellular phone 631 and the time taken for acoustic signals to travel from the master beacon 633 to the cellular phone 631 are measured, then the position of the cellular phone 631 can be determined relative to the master beacon 605.

15 A more detailed description of the components of the second acoustic position detection system shown in Figure 25 will now be given with reference to Figures 26 to 28.

20 Figure 26 shows electrical circuitry in the master beacon

633 which is used to generate audio data signals which correspond to the acoustic signals 639. As shown in Figure 26, a control unit 651 in the master beacon 633 outputs control signals to each of four pseudo-noise code generators 653a to 653d which generate respective
5 different orthogonal pseudo-noise codes. In particular, pseudo-noise code generator 653a generates a code sequence which will be referred to as PNA, pseudo-noise code generator 653b generates a code sequence which will
10 be referred to as PNB, pseudo-noise code generator 653c generates a code sequence which will be referred to as PNC and pseudo-noise code generator 653d generates a code sequence which will be referred to as PND. The pseudo-noise codes are made orthogonal so that if any two of the
15 pseudo-noise codes are multiplied together chip by chip another pseudo-noise sequence is generated.

In response to a signal from the control unit 651, each of the pseudo-noise code generators emits its respective
20 pseudo-noise code sequence. The rate at which the control unit 651 signals the pseudo-noise code generators 653 to emit their respective pseudo-noise codes is dependent on the operating requirements of the position detection system. In particular, the time between
25 pseudo-noise code emissions should preferably be significantly longer than the maximum likely time-of-flight difference for the acoustic signals 639 to travel to the cellular phone 631 to avoid any possibility of overlap between different sets of emissions. In this
30 example, the maximum likely time-of-flight difference is 90ms (corresponding to a difference in distance of approximately 30m) and the control unit 651 signals the pseudo-noise code generators 653 to emit their respective pseudo-noise sequences once a second.

35 The output of each pseudo-noise code generator 653 is

input to a respective one of the modulators 655a to 655d where it is used to modulate a carrier signal generated by a local oscillator 657. The spread spectrum signal output by each of the modulators 655 is amplified by a
5 respective one of four audio amplifiers 659a to 659d to generate audio data signals $S_1(t)$, $S_2(t)$, $S_3(t)$ and $S_4(t)$. The audio data signal $S_1(t)$ is input to a loudspeaker 661, forming part of the master beacon 633, which generates the corresponding acoustic signal 639a. The
10 audio data signals $S_2(t)$, $S_3(t)$ and $S_4(t)$ are conveyed to respective ones of the slave beacons 635, via the cables 637. Each slave beacon 635 has a loudspeaker which converts the incoming audio data signal $S(t)$ into the corresponding acoustic signal 639.

15 The components of the cellular phone 631 of the second acoustic position detection system are identical to the components of the cellular phone of the first acoustic position detection system except for the position
20 processor module. Figure 27 schematically shows the functional configuration of the position processor module 669 of the cellular phone of the second acoustic position detection system. In Figure 25, functional elements which are identical to corresponding functional elements
25 of the first acoustic position detection system have been referenced by the same reference numerals.

As in the first acoustic position detection system, the user selects a menu option of the cellular phone 631 to
30 download loudspeaker location data, i.e. the pseudo-random noise codes PNA to PND and the location for each respective beacon. On detection of the user selection by the keyboard interface 611, the beacon position identifier 613 downloads the loudspeaker location data
35 and stores it in the RAM 123. The beacon position identifier 613 also informs a correlator unit 671 of the

pseudo-noise codes PNA to PND.

As shown in Figure 27, the digital signal output by the ADC 113 is demodulated by the demodulator 615, and then the demodulated signal is processed by a correlator unit 671 which correlates the demodulated signal with stored sequences corresponding to pseudo-noise codes PNA to PND. In this embodiment, the correlator unit 671 identifies the timing of the pseudo-noise code sequences from the master beacon 5 and slave beacons 7, measures the time intervals between the identified timings and outputs signals corresponding to C_{12} , C_{13} and C_{14} as defined hereinbefore.

The correlator unit 671 will now be described in more detail with reference to Figure 28. As shown in Figure 28, the demodulated signal is input to four correlators 681a to 681d which correlate the demodulated signal with respective ones of pseudo-noise codes PNA to PND, which are generated by first to fourth pseudo-noise code generators 683a to 683d respectively based on the data received from the beacon position identifier 613. A peak in the correlation value detected by a correlator 681 will occur whenever the pseudo-noise code associated with the correlator 681 is present in the demodulated signal.

As shown in Figure 28, the outputs of the correlators 681 are processed by a correlator unit processor 685. The correlator unit processor 685 measures the difference in time between a peak received from the first correlator 681a and a peak received from the second correlator 681b, multiplies this time difference by the speed of the acoustic signals to calculate C_{12} and outputs a signal corresponding to C_{12} . Similarly the correlator unit processor 685 calculates C_{13} from the difference in time between a peak received from the first correlator 681a

and a peak received from the third correlator 681c and calculates C_{14} from the difference in time between a peak received from the first correlator 681a and a peak received from the fourth correlator 681d, and outputs signals corresponding to C_{13} and C_{14} .

Returning to Figure 27, the signals output by the correlator unit 671 are processed by a simultaneous equation solver 673. The simultaneous equations solver 673 interrogates the beacon position identifier 613 to retrieve the positions of the master beacon and the slave beacons 7 (i.e. $(0,0)$, (X_1, Y_1) , (X_2, Y_2) and (X_3, Y_3)) from the RAM 123. The simultaneous equation solver 673 then performs processing to calculate the position (X_p, Y_p) of the cellular phone 631 using equations 9 and 10 above and the values for C_{12} , C_{13} and C_{14} received from the correlator unit 671 to determine the position of the cellular phone 631.

A position signal generator then generates signals for transmitting the determined position to the cellular communications network or displaying the determined position on the display 29.

In the first acoustic position detection system the position of the cellular phone is determined relative to the master beacon 633. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that if the loudspeaker location data includes the absolute position of the master beacon 633, then the absolute position of the cellular phone 631 can be calculated.

In the second acoustic position detection system the master beacon and slave beacons are dedicated to the position determining system. However, loudspeakers forming part of a public address system, for example,

could also be used in which case each loudspeaker could include its own pseudo-noise code generator. It is necessary, however, that the loudspeakers all emit their own pseudo-noise codes with a predetermined timing.

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More than four loudspeakers could be used in the second acoustic position detection system, and if signals are received from more than four loudspeakers which are not in the same plane then the position of the cellular phone can be calculated in three dimensions.

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In the first and second acoustic position detection systems, loudspeaker location data is downloaded via the cellular communications network. Alternatively, an acoustic data channel could be used to transmit the loudspeaker location data to the cellular phone. The coordinates of all the loudspeakers could either be simultaneously downloaded via the acoustic data channel, or alternatively each loudspeaker could transmit its own coordinates to the cellular phone over the acoustic data channel.

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In the first and second acoustic position detection systems, all the loudspeakers output respective different pseudo-noise codes. This requires the cellular phone to check for a large number of pseudo-noise codes. Alternatively, the same pseudo-noise code could be used for different loudspeakers, provided that there are some loudspeakers which are associated with a unique pseudo-noise code which is not used by any other loudspeaker. The loudspeakers having a unique pseudo-noise code each has an associated zone and a cellular phone can determine which zone it is in from which of the unique pseudo-noise codes are detected. Then, loudspeakers having the same pseudo-noise code can be used provided there are no positions where a cellular phone can detect the same

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pseudo-noise code output by two different speakers.

5 In the above position detection systems, each loudspeaker has an associated pseudo-noise code which is used by the cellular phone for detecting the position of the cellular phone. This pseudo-noise code could also be used for the acoustic data channel. For the acoustic data channel, each loudspeaker could have a respective different pair of pseudo-noise codes which are used to encode the binary data values, and the cellular phone could determine its position by identifying which pseudo-noise codes are being used for the acoustic data channel. Preferably, the pseudo-noise code for one of the binary data values is the same for all loudspeakers so that only the pseudo-noise code for the other binary data value varies. This reduces the amount of processing performed by the cellular phone.

20 In all the above described position detection systems, the cellular phone performs the position determining calculation. However, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the cellular phone could transmit raw data, for example identified pseudo-noise codes, to a remote location where the actual position determination calculation is performed. Alternatively, the cellular phone could transmit a signal which is detected by one or more microphones and the position of the cellular phone is then calculated dependent on which microphones detect the signal from the cellular phone and optionally also the timing at which the microphones receive the signal. If the position of the cellular phone is calculated away from the cellular phone, then the calculated position can be transmitted to the cellular phone for display to a user.

35 In the first and second acoustic position detection

systems, the cellular phone also includes a data processor module for communicating vis the acoustic data channel. This is not, however, essential to the acoustic position detection systems.

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As described in the first acoustic position detection system, knowledge of the position of a cellular phone enables targeted advertising to be performed. Another situation in which knowledge of the position of a cellular phone would be advantageous is in an airport. Specifically, the locations of air passengers could be determined from their cellular phones so that they could be found quickly if they are late for boarding.

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In an embodiment of an acoustic position detection system, an electronic boarding card is transmitted to a cellular phone of an air passenger over the acoustic data channel, and the cellular phone responds by sending its phone number. Then, using a position detection system, the location of the cellular phone is monitored. Of course, if the air passenger is late, he can be called on his cellular phone to warn him that his flight is leaving imminently. Then, in order to board, the air passenger transmits the electronic boarding card over the acoustic data channel.

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As cellular phones are relatively inexpensive, in an alternative embodiment a cellular phone including an electronic boarding card is handed to each air passenger when they check in. The air passenger's movements are then monitored via the cellular phone, and then the cellular phone is collected from the air passenger when boarding the flight.

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In embodiments, data transmitted by the cellular phone is enhanced with location data calculated by the cellular

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phone instead of, or in addition to, the user profile data. In this way, for example, an audience survey station could determine the geographical distribution of the audience for a television/radio programme. The location data can be calculated either by the cellular phone itself, or from a signal received by the cellular phone from position determining circuitry external to the cellular phone.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the above embodiments described with reference to an airport could also be employed in a railway or bus station.

In preferred embodiments, the data transmitted by the cellular phone is enhanced by adding user profile data stored in the cellular phone. This is particularly useful for the audience survey and opinion polling applications described above because the collected data can be analysed in accordance with user characteristics contained in the user profile data. For example, if the user profile data specified the age of the user then the audience survey station could determine the age profile of the audience of a television/radio programme.

An advantage of sending enhanced data including data which is either stored in the cellular phone, for example the user profile data, or calculated by the cellular phone, for example location data, is that no additional effort is required by the user.

In a further alternative application, the encoder is incorporated within a public address system, for example in an airport or a railway station, and the text of an announcement made over the public address system is encoded within the acoustic signal conveying the announcement. Then, if a user does not hear the

announcement, the text of the announcement can be displayed to the user by the user's cellular phone.

5 In a further application, the data signal added to a broadcast audio track includes a source identifier and a time stamp. The user of a cellular phone including a decoder for decoding the data signal is then able to transmit, via the cellular communications network, the source identifier and the time stamp to a remote server
10 which stores a database identifying for each combination of source identifier and time stamp the title of the music being played. The remote server then transmits the title associated with the received source identifier and time stamp to the cellular phone which displays the title
15 to the user of the cellular phone. For example, if a radio station is playing a song having a data signal encoded therein with a source identifier identifying the radio station and a time stamp identifying the track number of the song being played (e.g. the tenth song
20 played by that radio station that day), then the user can download from the remote server the title of the song. Alternatively, the audio track may be a song in a film and the source identifier identifies the film and the time stamp identifies where in the film the song is being
25 played.

In the first to fifth embodiments, a data signal is encoded within an audio track of a television programme in a television studio. This encoding need not, however,
30 occur prior to the broadcasting of the television signal. For example, the data signal could be carried within the vertical blanking intervals of the video track and either a television set or a "set-top box" could then extract the data signal from the video track and encode it within
35 the audio track. The encoder need not, therefore, be in the television studio but could also, for example, be in

a television or a set-top box.

5 The acoustic data channel could also be used to transmit
messages which are either broadcast or selectively
addressed to particular cellular phones. In an
embodiment, the cellular phone includes an acoustic-only
mode in which the RF output is disabled but the phone is
still able to detect and analyse acoustic signals to
recover data. This is particularly advantageous for
10 transmitting messages in areas where, for safety reasons,
cellular phones cannot normally be used because of their
RF emissions. Examples of such areas include airports,
petrol stations and hospitals.

15 The acoustic data channel for transmitting messages could
be formed by any commonly encountered audio source. For
example, the audio track of a television/radio programme
or the output of a public address system could be used.
In a particular application, the public address system
20 within a shop is used to transmit message data about, for
example, special offers available in the shop.

25 The ability to encode data which is specific to a
particular geographical area is useful. For example, a
television programme could be broadcast by several
different television companies covering different
geographical areas. The data encoded within the
television programme could therefore be varied from area
to area. In this way, if the data is associated with
30 contact addresses, then the data encoded within the
television programme for each television station could
be associated with only the contact addresses within the
geographical area covered by the television station.
This is advantageous because it reduces the amount of
35 data sent to the user by automatically removing data
which is unlikely to be relevant.

The data encoded within the audio track could also be used to control the operation of the cellular phone. For example, in locations such as cinemas, aeroplanes and petrol stations where cellular phones should not be used, a data signal can be broadcast to the cellular phone which either switches the cellular phone off or puts it into a silent mode as appropriate.

In one application, the data encoded within the audio track is for a ring tone for the cellular phone, which responds by storing the ring tone data in a NVRAM (or other type of non-volatile memory) within the cellular phone. The ring tone generator of the cellular phone can then generate a ring tone corresponding to the stored ring tone data. In an embodiment, a recorded song has encoded therein data for a ring tone sounding like a segment of the song, and the cellular phone decodes the ring tone so that the ring tone of the cellular phone can be set to sound like the song.

In another application, the data for an icon is encoded within the audio track for decoding by the cellular phone. The icon can then either be displayed by the cellular phone or included in data messages to other cellular phones.

The acoustic data channel could be used to transmit small application files for the cellular phone. For example, for "Java phones" small application files commonly referred to as APPlets (sometimes referred to as MIDlets) could be received by the cellular phone via the acoustic data channel. The acoustic data channel could also be used to trigger an application file which has already been downloaded onto the cellular phone. For example, a Java phone could have stored an APPlet for displaying an animation sequence and the APPlet could be activated,

and the animation sequence accordingly displayed, in response to a trigger signal received via the acoustic data channel.

5 Application files could also be downloaded into the cellular phone corresponding to computer characters whose behaviour varies in response to a user's actions. In particular, a "behaviour" algorithm within the application file determines the actions of the computer character on the basis of inputs by the user of the cellular phone. The user is therefore able to nurture the behaviour of the computer character. Such computer characters are known, for example Tamagochi. The acoustic data channel could then be used to convey control data which modify the behaviour algorithm of a computer character so that the behaviour of the computer character reacts to events occurring around the user of the cellular phone. For example, a horror film could have control data encoded within its sound track which makes the computer character behave in a manner indicative of being agitated or scared. In this way, the computer character is able to react to external events.

25 In all the above applications and embodiments, a single acoustic data channel is provided for a cellular phone. However, more than one acoustic data channel could be provided. For example, if spread spectrum encoding is used then different pseudo-noise codes could be allocated to each acoustic data channel (i.e. a code division multiple access (CDMA) arrangement).

35 Application files containing pseudo-noise codes for establishing an acoustic data channel and configuration instructions for responding to data received via that acoustic data channel could also be downloaded into the cellular phone. For example, the acoustic data channel

corresponding to an application file could be associated with a particular company who send proprietary web page identifiers via the acoustic data channel, and the cellular phone responds by forwarding the proprietary web page identifiers to a server operated by the company. A cellular phone could have more than one of these application files stored therein, with the user being able to select one of the application files, and therefore the pseudo-noise codes used for decoding a detected acoustic signal, using a menu.

In an embodiment, an acoustic control channel is provided which uses pseudo-noise codes which are programmed within the cellular phones during manufacture. Subsequently, an application file containing pseudo-noise codes for establishing an additional acoustic data channel and configuration instructions for responding to data received via the additional data channel, is transmitted over the acoustic control channel. In an alternative embodiment, the application file is downloaded via the cellular communications network.

A problem with transmitting data acoustically is that the data transmission rates are generally slow, especially if it is desired to minimise the obtrusiveness of the acoustic data signal to a listener. For any application which requires the downloading of a significant amount of data, for example an Applet file, this problem can be at least partially solved by transmitting a web page address, which requires significantly less data, for a web page from which the data is downloadable, using for example the Wireless Applications Protocol, via the cellular communications network. Alternatively, the data could be downloaded using e-mail. Further, it is not essential that the data is downloaded from a web page because it could be downloaded from any information

source accessible via the cellular communications network.

5 As the bandwidth required to transmit an electrical signal conveying an original audio track modified by having a data signal encoded therein is no more than required for transmitting an electrical signal conveying the original audio track, during a call a cellular phone could encode a data signal within the outgoing RF signals
10 conveying voice data for receipt by another cellular phone which retrieves the data signal from the received voice data. The data signal could, for example, correspond to a business card.

15 In all the above described applications and embodiments, the cellular phone or other telephone apparatus comprises either an encoder for encoding a data signal within an audio track, or a decoder for decoding a data signal within an electrical signal corresponding to a detected
20 acoustic signal or both an encoder and a decoder. However, this is not essential because a conventional telephone apparatus could be used which either receives from a remote device having an encoder, via a telecommunications network, an audio track which already
25 has a data signal encoded within it for outputting by the telephone apparatus as an acoustic signal, or could transmit, via the telecommunications network, an electrical signal corresponding to a detected acoustic signal to a remote device having a decoder.

30 The sixth, seventh and eighth embodiments describe systems in which a cellular phone encodes a data signal within an acoustic signal emitted by the cellular phone for detection by an electronic device. In the sixth and
35 eighth embodiments, the data signal is encoded in a preset audio sequence whose only purpose is to alert the

user that a data transfer is taking place. This preset audio sequence is therefore not essential and the spread data signal could be directly output.

5 In the sixth embodiment, user data is transmitted between two cellular phones using the acoustic data channel. Alternatively, the acoustic data channel could be used to enable two cellular phones to interact with each other. In an embodiment, an interactive game is provided
10 which allows two players to play against each other using their respective cellular phones with data being transmitted between the cellular phones using the acoustic data channel. For example, the interactive game could be a chess game which has the advantage that only
15 a small amount of data need be transmitted between the two cellular phones.

In the seventh and eighth embodiments, the control signals are used to activate corresponding routines
20 within the electronic device. However, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the control signals could themselves convey the routines which are implemented by the electronic device. For example, the control signal could convey information enabling a speech synthesiser
25 located within the electronic device to produce a desired sound, for example a word or phrase.

In the seventh and eighth embodiments, the control signals emitted by the cellular phone are used to control
30 a toy. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the control signals could control devices other than toys. For example, the cellular phone could be used as a remote control device so that by inputting instructions into the cellular phone, acoustic control signals are output for
35 controlling a television, a home entertainment system, an airconditioning unit or another home appliance.

The cellular phone can also be used to store credits, in which case a portion of either the RAM or NVRAM is dedicated to storing a value indicative of the number of credits held by the user of the cellular phone. These credits can be downloaded into the cellular phone either via the conventional cellular communications network or via the acoustic data channel. The cellular phone can then output, via the acoustic data channel, control signals to vending appliances in order to purchase goods. The credits stored in the cellular phone could be accrued on a loyalty basis. For example, each time a user of the cellular phone goes to a particular cinema chain, a device within the cinema sends, via the acoustic data channel, a credit to the cellular phone, which in response increments the number of stored credits by one. When the number of credits stored in the cellular phone reaches a predetermined number the cellular phone can emit a control signal, via the acoustic data channel, which reduces the price of a cinema ticket.

As described previously, the cellular phone could be used to store an electronic boarding card for an airflight. Alternatively, the cellular phone could receive electronic tickets, via the acoustic data channel, for other public transport systems such as rail or coach. The cellular phone could also emit a signal, via the acoustic data channel, which controls ticket barriers provided in a public transport system when the cellular phone is storing an electronic ticket.

The cellular phone could also interact via the acoustic data channel with a network device connected to a network other than a cellular communications network, for example a Bluetooth network. In this way, the cellular phone can communicate with remote devices via networks other than the cellular communications network.

In some of the above embodiments, SMS messages are used to convey data to or from the cellular phone. Other alternative RF data transmission techniques could be used, for example EMS messaging and MMS messaging.

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Although hardware encoders are used in the described embodiments, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the function of these hardware encoders could also be performed by a computer apparatus running appropriate software. Similarly, the function of the software decoder of the first to fifth embodiments could be implemented in a hardware decoder and the function of the hardware decoder of the sixth to eighth embodiments could be implemented by a software decoder. Further, the position detection routines of the described acoustic position detection systems could be implemented in hardware.

The invention therefore also extends to computer programs, particularly computer programs on or in a carrier, adapted for putting the invention into practice. The program may be in the form of source code, object code, a code intermediate source and object code such as in partially compiled form, or in any other form suitable for use in the implementation of the processes according to the invention.

The carrier may be any entity or device capable of carrying the program. For example, the carrier may comprise a storage medium such as a ROM, for example a CD-ROM or a semiconductor ROM, or a magnetic recording medium, for example a floppy disk or hard disk. Further, the carrier may be a transmissible carrier such as an electrical or optical signal which may be conveyed via electrical or optical cable or by radio or other means.

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When the program is embodied in a signal which may be conveyed directly by a cable or other device or means, the carrier may be constituted by such cable or other device or means. Alternatively, the carrier may be an integrated circuit in which the program is embedded, the integrated circuit being adapted for performing, or for use in the performance of, the relevant processes.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention can be applied to cellular phones which do not conform with the GSM specification. Further, web page data can be retrieved using protocols other than the Wireless Application Protocol.

The first to fifth embodiments describe five different encoders. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that any of these five encoders could be used in the above described further embodiments and applications.

In an embodiment, the data signal generator and the encoder are in physically separated units, and the data signal is input to an input port of the encoder unit. In an alternative embodiment, the encoder and the decoder could be housed in the same unit (i.e. share a common housing).

In the second embodiment, the carrier frequency used in the modulator is varied so that the centre frequency of the spread data signal is positioned in a relatively high energy portion of the audio track. In particular, the energy in 2048 frequency sub-bands is monitored and the carrier frequency of the modulator varied accordingly. In an alternative embodiment, the number of frequency sub-bands could be reduced, for example to eight, in order to reduce the amount of processing required.

In the decoder for the second embodiment, the received audio track is analysed to determine the carrier frequency used in the modulator in the encoder. However, if the encoder uses a small number of frequency sub-bands, and therefore only a small number of carrier frequencies are possible, then in an alternative embodiment the demodulator in the decoder passes the received audio track through a number of separate channels with each channel using a respective one of the possible carrier frequencies, and subsequently determines which channel provides the strongest signal in order to recover the data signal. This has the advantage over determining the carrier frequency from the received audio track that if the audio track is altered by the communication channel between the encoder and the decoder then the data signal is still correctly recovered.

In the third embodiment, a linear predictive coding (LPC) algorithm is used to separate the audio track into a tonal part, whose values are determinable from each other, and a noise part, whose values are apparently random. Alternatively, other auto-regressive algorithms could be used to isolate a random part of the audio track which can be at least partially replaced by a shaped spread spectrum signal. Further, the frequency spectrum of the audio track could be analysed to identify tonal components which are subsequently removed to separate the tonal part and the noise part.

In the fourth embodiment, the tonality of the audio track is determined by analysing the frequency spectrum of the audio track. Alternatively, the tonality could be determined by applying a time series model, for example an LPC model, having a fixed number of coefficients and determining the power in the modelled signal corresponding to the coefficients.

In the fifth embodiment, the number of LP coefficients, the level of the psycho-acoustic encoding and the gain factor G used in the variable combiner are selected by a user. Alternatively, one or two or all three of these variables could be automatically set by the encoder. For example, the number of LP coefficients used could be determined from the tonality of the audio track.

In the fifth embodiment, the noise part $N(t)$ and the shaped signal $S(t)$ are input to a variable combiner, and the output of the variable combiner is added to the tonal part $P(t)$ to form the modified audio track. Alternatively, the original audio track could be input to the variable combiner instead of the noise part $N(t)$, as in the fourth embodiment, so that the output of the variable combiner forms the modified audio track and the LPC analysis is only used for shaping the modulated signal $G(t)$. In other words, the modulated signal $G(t)$ is shaped to approximate the noise part $N(t)$ of an audio track to form a shaped signal $S(t)$, and then the shaped signal $S(t)$ is added directly to the audio track in a variable combiner. In an embodiment, the gain factor G for the variable combiner is automatically set so that the signal to noise ratio of the data signal in the modified audio track is within a predetermined range, for example between -10 and -15 dB. The signal to noise ratio can be calculated by inputting the shaped data signal $S(t)$ into a first power monitor, inputting the audio track into a second power monitor, and then dividing the power in the shaped data signal by the total power level obtained by adding the power in the audio track and the power in the shaped data signal. Alternatively, the signal to noise ratio could be calculated by dividing the power in the shaped data signal by the power in the audio track.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that for some applications the described shaping techniques for shaping the data signal to reduce the obtrusiveness of the data signal in the modified audio track are not required because it is not essential for the audio track to be reproduced at high quality.

In addition, the encoder of the fifth embodiment could be modified to remove the variable combiner, in which case the signal shaped using the psycho-acoustic algorithm is added directly to the tonal part of the audio track.

For automated encoders which do not require a user input, the encoding can be carried out in real-time and therefore is suitable for, for example, real-time addition to television broadcasts or public address announcements.

In the described embodiments, the data signal $F(t)$ is continuously added to the audio track. Alternatively, the encoder could identify the portions of the audio track which are better suited to hiding the data signal and then only encode data in those identified portions. In an embodiment, the audio track is input to a spectrum analyser which determines the tonality of the audio track (for example the spectrum analyser 201 of the fifth embodiment) and only adds the data signal in the portions of the audio track for which the tonality is below a predetermined level. In another embodiment, the encoder determines which portions are better suited to hide the data signal based on the power of the audio track, while in yet another embodiment the encoder determines the portions based on a combination of the power and tonality.

As described above, in some applications control data for synchronising an operation of a cellular phone with a broadcast audio signal, for example for a television program or a radio program, is encoded within the audio signal and the acoustic wave corresponding to the audio signal is detected by a cellular phone which decodes the control data and responds with the required synchronisation. A problem with such synchronised systems is that sometimes the audio track at the moment the response by the cellular phone is required is too quiet to hide the control data effectively. This problem can be alleviated by sending the control data in advance during a louder portion of the audio track along with timing data indicating the timing when the cellular phone should respond in accordance with the control data. Then, in the quieter portion of the audio track when the response takes place, no data need be transmitted.

The timing data need not be transmitted simultaneously with control data, but could be transmitted separately. For example, at the beginning of a data signal conveying a sequence of control data, timing data could be transmitted indicating that the response to each item of control data is to be delayed for a preset period of time. Although the time delay is not optimised for each item of control data, sending timing data in this way reduces the total amount of data which needs to be sent.

In the first to eighth embodiments, the data signal is spread over audible frequencies using DSSS encoding. As those skilled in the art will appreciate, signals encoded using DSSS encoding can be decoded in two main ways. In one way, the encoded signal is synchronously multiplied by the same pseudo-noise code which was used to encode the signal, a technique commonly referred to as coherent detection. In the other way, a correlator such as a

matched filter is used to correlate the encoded signal with the pseudo-noise code which was used to encode the signal, a technique commonly referred to as incoherent detection.

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In the first to fifth embodiments, a data bit whose value is "0" is represented by a pseudo-noise code PN0 and a data bit whose value is "1" is represented by a pseudo-noise code PN1. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that if coherent decoding is used, then the pseudo-noise code PN0 can be the inverse of pseudo-noise code PN1.

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In an embodiment, a first plurality of pseudo-noise codes are provided for representing a data bit whose value is "0" and a second plurality of pseudo-noise codes are provided for representing a data bit whose value is "1". The choice of which pseudo-noise code is used to encode a data bit can then be based upon which pseudo-noise code produces a data signal which is the least perceptible when added to an audio track. Subsequently, the decoder could either analyse the audio track to determine which pseudo-noise code had been used or decode the received audio track using all possible pseudo-noise codes. Decoding using all possible pseudo-noise codes has the advantage that the decoding is more robust if the audio track is altered by the communication channel between the encoder and the decoder. However, if there are a large number of pseudo-noise codes then analysing the audio track to determine which pseudo-noise code was used requires less processing power.

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The energy of a data signal can be spread over a wide range of frequencies by using techniques other than DSSS encoding. For example, an Orthogonal Frequency Division Modulation (OFDM) technique can be used in which, for example, 256 narrow-band orthogonal carriers carry

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identical data. These 256 narrow-band carriers are evenly distributed in the frequency range of 1 to 5 kHz and thus spreading of the energy of the data signal is achieved. The original data signal can then be reconstructed by demodulating the recombining each of the narrow-band signals.

It will be appreciated by a person skilled in the art that still further techniques could be used to spread the energy of the data signal. For example, frequency hopping could be used in which the frequency of the modulated data signal is changed in a random manner.

Although spread spectrum encoding is preferred because it reduces the noticeability of the acoustic data channel to a listener, it is not an essential feature of the invention. The acoustic data channel could also be formed, for example, by using a dedicated narrow frequency range. Alternatively, a data signal could be encoded within an audio track by systematically modifying either frequency or time information within the audio track. For example, an echo modulation scheme could be used in which an echo signal is added with a time delay which is varied in accordance with a data signal. Alternatively, a critical band encoding technique could be used in which each data value is associated with a respective set of narrow-band frequencies.

In another embodiment, the acoustic data channel uses an ultrasonic link which has the advantage that it is not audible to the user of the cellular phone.

In the first to eighth embodiments, phase shift keying is used to modulate the spread data signal. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that other modulation schemes, for example frequency shift keying or quadrature

amplitude modulation, could be used instead.

For ease of explanation, the data signal in the described
embodiments has been encoded within a single channel
5 audio track. However, the data signal could also be
encoded within a stereo audio track having two or more
channels. The data signal can be added synchronously to
more than one channel of the stereo audio track or with
a time offset of, for example, 150ms between the
10 channels. Introducing a time offset has the advantage
of adding an additional level of time diversity, thereby
enabling a more robust regeneration of the data signal
because there is less chance of losing data due to
background noise (i.e. noise which is not the modified
15 audio track). Alternatively, two different broadband
signals could be generated with each one being added to
a respective channel of the stereo audio track.

Alternatively, for a multi-channel audio track, the data
20 signal need not be encoded in every channel of the audio
track. For example, for a television programme in which
one channel of the audio track carries voice data and
another channel of the audio track carries background
music data, the data signal could be added only to the
25 channel carrying background music data.

In some embodiments, a psycho-acoustic algorithm is used
to reduce the obtrusiveness of the data signal within the
modified audio track. However, a psycho-acoustic
30 algorithm is not essential and could be replaced by a
simpler algorithm which requires less processing power.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that
conventional equalisation techniques, for example using
35 a rake receiver, can be applied in the decoder to improve
the bit error rate in the presence of multi-path

components or frequency response impairments. Further, an automatic gain control circuit could be included at the input to the decoder.

5 The precise values of the bit rates, chip rates, sampling rates and modulation frequencies described in the detailed embodiments are not essential features of the invention and can be varied without departing from the invention. Further, while in the described embodiments
10 the data signal is a binary signal, the data signal could be any narrow band signal, for example a modulated signal in which frequency shift keying has been used to represent a "1" data bit by a first frequency and a "0" data bit as second different frequency. Further, those
15 skilled in the art will appreciate that the order in which the spreading, modulating and shaping is performed in the encoder can be varied. Although digital signal processing techniques have been described as the preferred implementation of the invention, analogue
20 processing techniques could be used instead.

As those skilled in the art will appreciate, the sampling rate of 22.05 kHz matches that used for one channel of a compact disc and therefore the encoders and decoders
25 described for these embodiments are suitable for use in systems where a data signal is conveyed by an audio track recorded on a compact disc. A sampling rate of 44.1 kHz could also be used for recording the data signal on a compact disc, and a sampling rate of 48kHz could be used
30 for recording the data signal on a DVD.

It will be appreciated that the term audio track refers to an electrical signal which is intended to be reproduced as a corresponding acoustic signal by a
35 loudspeaker in the audible range of frequencies, which typically spans from 20Hz to 20,000Hz. The duration of

the audio track can be short, for example the ring tone of a cellular phone or doorbell, or long, for example the soundtrack to a movie.

- 5 The invention can also be applied to other cellular communication devices such as pagers.

CLAIMS

1. A telecommunications apparatus comprising:
means for receiving acoustic signals and for
5 converting the received acoustic signals into
corresponding electrical signals;
audio processing means, coupled to said acoustic
signal receiving means, for processing acoustic signals
received by said acoustic signal receiving means for
10 transmission to a telecommunications network; and
data processing means, coupled to said acoustic
signal receiving means, for recovering a data signal
conveyed by an acoustic signal received by said acoustic
signal receiving means, to provide data to said
15 telecommunications apparatus.
2. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim
1, wherein the acoustic signal receiving means comprises
a microphone which is provided in common to the audio
20 processing means and the data processing means.
3. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim
1 or 2, wherein the data processing means comprises a
demodulator for demodulating the data signal.
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4. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim
3, wherein the demodulator comprises:
means for generating an oscillating signal having
an oscillation frequency;
30 means for spectrally analysing a received acoustic
signal; and
means for varying the oscillation frequency in
dependence upon said spectral analysis of the received
acoustic signal.
35
5. A telecommunications apparatus according to any
preceding claim, wherein the data signal is a spread

spectrum signal, and wherein said telecommunications apparatus further comprises a decoder for processing the spread spectrum signal to recover data.

- 5 6. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the spread spectrum signal is a direct sequence spread spectrum signal, and the decoder comprises:

 means for generating a pseudo-noise code;
10 means for synchronising the generated pseudo-noise code and a code sequence conveyed by the direct sequence spread spectrum signal; and
 means for multiplying the synchronised pseudo-noise code and the direct sequence spread spectrum signal to
15 de-spread the direct sequence spread spectrum signal.

7. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the spread spectrum signal is a direct sequence spread spectrum signal,
20 and wherein the decoder comprises:
 means for generating a pseudo-noise code; and
 a correlator for correlating a code sequence conveyed by the direct sequence spread spectrum signal and the generated pseudo-noise code to de-spread the
25 direct sequence spread spectrum signal.

8. A telecommunications apparatus according to any preceding claim, further comprising response means responsive to the data provided by the data signal.

- 30 9. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the response means comprises means for storing information provided by the data signal.

- 35 10. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising means for outputting a ring tone in response to a signal from the telecommunications network,

wherein said data provided by the data signal comprises ring tone data defining a ring tone,

wherein the response means is arranged to store the ring tone data in the storing means,

5 and wherein the ring tone outputting means is operable to output the ring tone defined by the ring tone data stored in said storing means.

10 11. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the storing means is configured to store a database for associating a plurality of identifications with a respective plurality of telecommunications addresses,

15 wherein the data provided by the data signal conveys an identification and an associated telecommunications address, and

20 wherein the response means is operable to store said identification and associated telecommunications address in said database.

12. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 11, further comprising a display for displaying information to a user,

25 wherein the response means is operable to display information conveyed by the data signal on the display.

30 13. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 12, wherein the response means is arranged, in response to data provided by the data signal, to switch the telecommunications apparatus to a silent mode in which the telecommunications apparatus does not emit acoustic signals.

35 14. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 13, wherein the response means is arranged, in response to data provided by the data signal, to switch the telecommunications apparatus to a mode in

which the telecommunications apparatus does not emit radio frequency signals.

5 15. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 14, wherein the response means comprises means for executing a computer program in response to data provided by the data signal.

10 16. A telecommunication apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the computer program is conveyed by the data signal, and wherein the telecommunications apparatus further comprises means for storing the computer program in a data store.

15 17. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a data store for storing the computer program, wherein the executing means is operable to execute a computer program stored in the data store in response to an initialisation signal conveyed by the
20 data signal.

18. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the initialisation signal comprises time delay information,

25 wherein the response means comprises:
means for determining the time delay information of an initialisation signal conveyed by a received acoustic signal; and

30 means for delaying the execution of the computer program by a period dependent upon the determined time delay information.

35 19. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 15 to 18, wherein the executing means is operable to execute a Java application file.

20. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of

claims 8 to 19, wherein the response means comprises:

means for outputting a signal, via the telecommunications network, to a remote information source having a telecommunications address identifiable from data provided by the data signal; and

means for receiving, via the telecommunications network, an information signal from the information source.

21. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

means for storing a telecommunications address conveyed by the data signal;

means for notifying a user when the telecommunications address is stored in the storing means; and

a user interface for receiving a user input, wherein the outputting means is arranged to output the signal to the remote information source in response to a user input via the user interface.

22. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the notifying means comprises a display for displaying information to a user.

23. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 21 or 22, wherein the user interface comprises a keyboard having a plurality of keys.

24. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 23, wherein one of said plurality of keys is dedicated to receiving a user input in response to which the outputting means is operable to output the signal to the remote information source.

25. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 20 to 24, wherein the data provided by the data

signal comprises a telephone number, and wherein the telecommunications apparatus comprises means for transmitting a signal, via the telecommunications network, to the telecommunications address corresponding to the telephone number.

26. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 20 to 24, wherein the data provided by the data signal comprises a uniform resource locator, and wherein the telecommunications apparatus comprises means for transmitting a signal, via the telecommunications network, to the telecommunications address corresponding to the uniform resource locator.

27. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 20 to 24, wherein the data provided by the data signal comprises an Internet Protocol address, and wherein the telecommunications apparatus comprises means for transmitting a signal, via the telecommunications network, to the Internet Protocol address.

28. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 20 to 24, wherein the data provided by the data signal comprises an index value for a look-up table, the look-up table associating each of a plurality of index values with a respective one of a plurality of telecommunication addresses, and wherein the telecommunications apparatus comprises means for transmitting a signal to the telecommunication address associated with a received index value in the look-up table.

29. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising storage means configured to store said look-up table.

30. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim

28, wherein the transmitting means is arranged to transmit the index value, via the telecommunications network, to a predetermined telecommunications address at which the look-up table is stored.

5

31. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 19, wherein the response means comprises:

means for outputting a signal comprising data provided by the data signal, via the telecommunications network, to a predetermined telecommunications address.

10

32. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising a data store for storing user information associated with the user of the telecommunications apparatus,

15

wherein the output means is operable to output a signal comprising data provided by the data signal and the user information stored in the data store.

20

33. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 31 or 32, further comprising means for determining the location of the telecommunications apparatus,

25

wherein the output means is operable to output a signal comprising data provided by the data signal and data identifying the determined location of the telecommunications apparatus.

30

34. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 31 to 33, wherein the telecommunications apparatus further comprises means for receiving from the predetermined telecommunications address, via the telecommunications network, an information signal which varies in dependence upon said output signal.

35

35. A telecommunications apparatus according to any preceding claim, further comprising means for configuring the telecommunications apparatus such that the audio

processing means is disabled and the data processing means is enabled.

5 36. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 8 to 35, wherein the data signal comprises at least one pseudo-noise code, and wherein the response means is operable to configure the data processing means to decode a received spread spectrum signal using the at least one pseudo-noise code.

10 37. A telecommunications apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein said audio processing means is a first audio processing means, said data processing means is a first data processing means, and wherein the telecommunications apparatus further comprises:

15 means for receiving electrical signals and for converting the received electrical signals into corresponding acoustic signals;

20 a second audio processing means, coupled to said electrical signals receiving means, for processing audio signals received from the telecommunications network and for outputting the processed audio signals to said electrical signals converting means; and

25 a second data processing means, coupled to said electrical signals converting means, for processing a data signal to be transmitted by the telecommunications apparatus and for outputting the processed data signal to said electrical signals converting means.

30 38. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the electrical signals converting means comprises a loudspeaker provided in common to the second audio processing means and the second data processing means.

35 39. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 37 or 38, wherein the second data processing means

comprises means for modulating the data signal.

40. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the modulating means comprises:

5 means for generating an oscillation signal having an oscillation frequency;

 means for analysing the processed audio signal to identify a peak frequency range; and

10 means for varying the oscillation frequency of the oscillation signal to be within the identified peak frequency range.

41. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 37 to 40, wherein the second data processing means
15 comprises means for spreading the data signal to generate a spread spectrum signal.

42. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 41, wherein the spreading means comprises a first
20 pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a first pseudo-noise code, and wherein the spreading means is operable to perform direct sequence spread spectrum encoding using the first pseudo-noise code.

25 43. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the spreading means is operable to combine each data element of the data signal with a part of the first pseudo-noise code.

30 44. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the spreading means further comprises a second pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a second pseudo-noise code which is different to the first pseudo-noise code,

35 wherein the spreading means is arranged to combine each data element of the data signal with a code sequence from either the first pseudo-noise code or the second

pseudo-noise code in dependence upon the value of the data element.

5 45. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the second pseudo-noise code generator is arranged to generate a second pseudo-noise code which is orthogonal to the first pseudo-noise code.

10 46. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 37 to 45, further comprising means for mixing a processed audio signal generated by the second audio processing means and a data signal generated by the second data processing means to generate a modified audio signal.

15 47. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said mixing means comprises means for combining the processed audio signal and the data signal by performing a weighted addition in accordance with at least one weighting factor.

20 48. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 47, wherein the combining means further comprises means for varying the at least one weighting factor.

25 49. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one weighting factor.

30 50. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the level of tonality of the processed audio signal; and

35 means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the processed audio signal and the data signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the

processed audio signal.

51. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the varying means comprises:

5 means for determining the power level of the processed audio signal;

means for determining the power level of the data signal; and

10 means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the processed audio signal and the data signal in dependence upon the determined power levels of the processed audio signal and the data signal.

52. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said mixing means comprises:

15 means for shaping the data signal in dependence on the processed audio signal to generate a shaped signal; and

20 means for combining the shaped signal and the processed audio signal to form the modified audio signal.

53. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 52, wherein the combining means comprises means for performing a weighted addition of the processed audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon at least one weighting factor.

25

54. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 53, wherein the combining means further comprises means for varying the at least one weighting factor.

30

55. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 54, wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one weighting factor.

35

56. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim

54, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the level of tonality of the processed audio signal; and

5 means for determining the at least one weighting factor for the processed audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the processed audio signal.

10 57. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 54, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the power level of the processed audio signal;

means for determining the power level of the shaped signal; and

15 means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the processed audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined power levels of the processed audio signal and the shaped signal.

20 58. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the mixing means comprises:

means for modelling the processed audio signal to generate a modelled signal;

25 means for differencing the modelled signal and the processed audio signal to generate a residual signal; and

means for spectrally shaping the data signal in dependence upon the residual signal in order to form a shaped signal.

30 59. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 58, wherein the modelling means comprises:

means for applying a time series model to generate a plurality of coefficients indicative of the processed audio signal; and

35 means for synthesising the modelled signal using the generated coefficients.

60. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 59, further comprising means for modifying the time series model in order to vary the number of coefficients generated by the time series model.

5

61. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 60, wherein the modifying means comprises a user interface, and wherein the modifying means is arranged to vary the number of generated coefficients in accordance with a user signal received via the user interface.

10

62. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 60, wherein the modifying means comprises means for determining the level of tonality of the processed audio signal, and wherein the modifying means is arranged to vary the number of generated coefficients in accordance with the determined level of tonality.

15

63. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 59 to 62, wherein the time series modelling means is arranged to apply a linear predictive coding analysis to determine said coefficients.

20

64. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 58 to 63, wherein the shaping means comprises:

25

means for spectrally analysing the residual signal to generate a first plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

30

means for generating a plurality of scaling factors in accordance with the first plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

means for spectrally analysing the data signal to generate a second plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

35

means for scaling the second plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients using the plurality of scaling

100

factors to generate a plurality of scaled coefficients;
and

means for synthesising the shaped signal using the
plurality of scaled coefficients.

5

65. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim
64, wherein the scaling factors generation means is
operable to perform a psycho-acoustic analysis of the
first plurality of frequency dependent coefficients.

10

66. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim
65, wherein the scaling factors generation means
comprises a psycho-acoustic filter for performing the
psycho-acoustic analysis.

15

67. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim
66, wherein the psycho-acoustic filter has a variable
bandwidth, and wherein said scaling factors generation
means comprises means for varying the variable bandwidth
of the psycho-acoustic filter.

20

68. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim
67, wherein said varying means comprises a user interface
and means for setting the bandwidth of the psycho-
acoustic filter in accordance with a user input received
via the user interface.

25

69. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim
67, wherein the varying means comprises:

30

means for determining the level of tonality of the
residual signal; and

means for setting the bandwidth of the psycho-
acoustic filter in accordance with the determined level
of tonality.

35

70. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of
claims 58 to 69, further comprising combining means for

101

performing a weighted addition of the residual signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon at least one weighting factor.

5 71. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 70, wherein the combining means further comprises means for varying the at least one weighting factor.

10 72. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 71, wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one weighting factor.

15 73. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 71, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the level of tonality of the residual signal; and

20 means for determining the at least one weighting factor for the residual signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the residual signal.

25 74. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 46 to 73, wherein the mixing means further comprises:

a power level monitor for determining a power level associated with the processed audio signal;

30 means for varying the relative timing between the data signal and the processed audio signal in accordance with the power level determined by the power level monitor; and

means for encoding in the data signal timing information dependent upon the variation in relative timing by the relative timing varying means.

35

75. A telecommunications apparatus comprising:

means for receiving electrical signals and for

converting the received electrical signals into corresponding acoustic signals;

an audio processing means, coupled to said electrical signals converting means, for processing audio signals received from a telecommunications network and for outputting the processed audio signals to said electrical signals converting means; and

a data processing means, coupled to said electrical signals converting means, for processing a data signal to be transmitted by the telecommunications apparatus and for outputting the processed data signal to said electrical signals converting means.

76. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 75, wherein the electrical signals converting means comprises a loudspeaker provided in common to the audio processing means and the data processing means.

77. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 75 or 76, wherein the data processing means comprises means for modulating the data signal.

78. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 77, wherein the modulating means comprises:

means for generating an oscillation signal having an oscillation frequency;

means for analysing the processed audio signal to identify a peak frequency range; and

means for varying the oscillation frequency of the oscillation signal to be within the identified peak frequency range.

79. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 75 to 78, wherein the data processing means comprises means for spreading the data signal to generate a spread spectrum signal.

80. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 79, wherein the spreading means comprises a first pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a first pseudo-noise code comprising a code sequence, and wherein
5 the spreading means is operable to perform direct sequence spread spectrum encoding using the first pseudo-noise code.

81. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the spreading means is operable to combine
10 each data element of the data signal with a part of the first pseudo-noise code.

82. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the spreading means further comprises a
15 second pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a second pseudo-noise code which is different to the first pseudo-noise code,

wherein the spreading means is arranged to combine
20 each data element of the data signal with a code sequence from either the first pseudo-noise code or the second pseudo-noise code in dependence upon the value of the data element.

83. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 82, wherein the second pseudo-noise code generator is
25 arranged to generate a second pseudo-noise code which is orthogonal to the first pseudo-noise code.

84. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of
30 claims 75 to 83, further comprising means for mixing a processed audio signal generated by the audio processing means and a data signal generated by the data processing means to generate a modified audio signal.

85. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 84, wherein said mixing means comprises means for
35

combining the processed audio signal and the data signal by performing a weighted addition in accordance with at least one weighting factor.

5 86. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 85, wherein the combining means further comprises means for varying the at least one weighting factor.

10 87. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 86, wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one weighting factor.

15 88. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 86, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the level of tonality of the processed audio signal; and

20 means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the processed audio signal and the data signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the processed audio signal.

89. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 86, wherein the varying means comprises:

25 means for determining the power level of the processed audio signal;

means for determining the power level of the data signal; and

30 means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the processed audio signal and the data signal in dependence upon the determined power levels of the processed audio signal and the data signal.

35 90. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 84, wherein said mixing means comprises:

means for shaping the data signal in dependence on the processed audio signal to generate a shaped signal;

105

and

means for combining the shaped signal and the processed audio signal to form the modified audio signal.

5 91. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claim 90, wherein the combining means comprises means for performing a weighted addition of the processed audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon at least one weighting factor.

10

92. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 91, wherein the combining means further comprises means for varying the at least one weighting factor.

15

93. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 92, wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one weighting factor.

20

94. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 92, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the level of tonality of the processed audio signal; and

25

means for determining the at least one weighting factor for the processed audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the processed audio signal.

30

95. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 92, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the power level of the processed audio signal;

means for determining the power level of the shaped signal; and

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means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the processed audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined power levels of the

106

processed audio signal and the shaped signal.

96. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 84, wherein the mixing means comprises:

5 means for modelling the processed audio signal to generate a modelled signal;

 means for differencing the modelled signal and the processed audio signal to generate a residual signal; and

10 means for spectrally shaping the data signal in dependence upon the residual signal in order to form a shaped signal.

97. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 96, wherein the modelling means comprises:

15 means for applying a time series model to generate a plurality of coefficients indicative of the processed audio signal; and

 means for synthesising the modelled signal using the generated coefficients.

20 98. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 97, further comprising means for modifying the time series model in order to vary the number of coefficients generated by the time series model.

25 99. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 98, wherein the modifying means comprises a user interface, and wherein the modifying means is arranged to vary the number of generated coefficients in accordance with a user signal received via the user interface.

30 100. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 98, wherein the modifying means comprises means for determining the level of tonality of the processed audio signal, and wherein the modifying means is arranged to vary the number of generated coefficients in accordance

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with the determined level of tonality.

5 101. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 97 to 100, wherein the time series modelling means is arranged to apply a linear predictive coding analysis to determine said coefficients.

10 102. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 95 to 101, wherein the shaping means comprises:
means for spectrally analysing the residual signal to generate a first plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

15 means for synthesising a plurality of scaling factors in accordance with the first plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

means for spectrally analysing the data signal to generate a second plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

20 means for scaling the second plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients using the plurality of scaling factors to generate a plurality of scaled coefficients; and

25 means for synthesising the shaped signal using the plurality of scaled coefficients.

30 103. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 102, wherein the scaling factors generation means is operable to perform a psycho-acoustic analysis of the first plurality of frequency dependent coefficients.

35 104. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 103, wherein the scaling factors generation means comprises a psycho-acoustic filter for performing the psycho-acoustic analysis.

105. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 104, wherein the psycho-acoustic filter has a variable

108

bandwidth, and wherein said scaling factors generation means comprises means for varying the variable bandwidth of the psycho-acoustic filter.

5 106. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 105, wherein said varying means comprises a user interface and means for setting the bandwidth of the psycho-acoustic filter in accordance with a user input received via the user interface.

10 107. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 105, wherein the varying means comprises:

 means for determining the level of tonality of the residual signal; and

15 means for setting the bandwidth of the psycho-acoustic filter in accordance with the determined level of tonality.

20 108. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 96 to 107, wherein the mixing means further comprises combining means for performing a weighted addition of the residual signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon at least one weighting factor.

25 109. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 108, wherein the combining means further comprises means for varying the at least one weighting factor.

30 110. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 109, wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one weighting factor.

35 111. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 109, wherein the varying means comprises:

 means for determining the level of tonality of the residual signal; and

means for determining the at least one weighting factor for the residual signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the residual signal.

5

112, A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 84 to 111, wherein the mixing means further comprises:

10 a power level monitor for determining a power level associated with the processed audio signal;

means for varying the relative timing between the data signal and the processed audio signal in accordance with the power level determined by the power level monitor; and

15 means for encoding in the data signal timing information dependent upon the variation in relative timing carried out by the relative timing varying means.

20 113. A telecommunications apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the telecommunications apparatus comprises means for communicating with the telecommunications network using radio frequency signals.

25 114. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 113, further comprising means storing a protocol stack for communicating in accordance with the Wireless Application Protocol.

30 115. A telecommunications apparatus according to either claim 113 or 114, further comprising position processing means operable to determine the location of the telecommunications apparatus.

35 116. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 115, wherein the telecommunications apparatus comprises means for receiving acoustic signals and for converting the received acoustic signals into corresponding

110

electrical signals,

wherein the position processing means is operable to determine the location of the telecommunications apparatus using said corresponding electrical signal.

5

117. A communication system comprising:

means for generating an electrical signal conveying a data signal;

10 an electro-acoustic transducer, coupled to the generating means, for converting the electrical signal into a corresponding acoustic signal;

15 a telecommunications apparatus coupled to a telecommunications network, the telecommunications apparatus comprising an acousto-electric transducer for receiving acoustic signals and for converting the received acoustic signals into corresponding electrical signals and means, coupled to said acousto-electric transducer, for processing acoustic signals received by said transducer for transmission to the telecommunications network; and

20 means for recovering the data signal from an acoustic signal received by the acousto-electric converter of the telecommunications apparatus.

25 118. A communication system according to claim 117, further comprising an encoder for encoding the data signal within an audio signal for broadcasting using the electro-acoustic transducer.

30 119. A communication system according to claim 118, wherein the encoder comprises means for modulating the data signal to form a modulated signal, and wherein the recovery means comprises means for demodulating the electrical signal received by the acousto-electric transducer.

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120. A communication system according to claim 119,

111

wherein the modulating means comprises: i) means for generating an oscillation signal having an oscillation frequency; ii) means for analysing the audio signal to identify a peak frequency range; and iii) means for
5 varying the oscillation frequency of the oscillation signal to be within the identified peak frequency range,

and wherein the demodulating means comprises i) means for generating an oscillation signal having an oscillation frequency; ii) means for analysing the
10 electrical signal received by the acousto-electric transducer to identify a peak frequency range; and iii) means for varying the oscillation frequency of the oscillation signal in dependence upon the identified peak frequency range.

121. A communication system according to any of claims 118 to 120, wherein the encoder comprises means for spreading the data signal to generate a spread spectrum signal for broadcast by the electro-acoustic transducer,
20 and wherein the recovery means comprises a decoder for processing the spread spectrum signal received by the acousto-electric transducer to recover the data signal.

122. A communication system according to claim 121, wherein the spreading means comprises a first pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a first pseudo-noise code, and wherein the spreading means is operable to perform direct sequence spread spectrum encoding using the first pseudo-noise code to generate
30 a direct sequence spread spectrum signal.

123. A communication system according to claim 122, wherein the spreading means is operable to combine each data element of the data signal with a part of the first pseudo-noise code.
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124. A communication system according to claim 122,

wherein the spreading means further comprises a second pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a second pseudo-noise code which is different to the first pseudo-noise code,

5 wherein the spreading means is arranged to combine each data element of the data signal with a code sequence from either the first pseudo-noise code or the second pseudo-noise code in dependence upon the value of the data element.

10

125. A communication system according to claim 124, wherein the second pseudo-noise code generator is arranged to generate a second pseudo-noise code which is orthogonal to the first pseudo-noise code.

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126. A communication system according to any of claims 122 to 125, wherein the decoder of the recovery means comprises:

 means for generating a pseudo-noise code;
20 means for synchronising the generated pseudo-noise code and a code sequence conveyed by the direct sequence spread spectrum signal; and
 means for multiplying the synchronised pseudo-noise code and the direct sequence spread spectrum signal to
25 de-spread the direct sequence spread spectrum signal.

127. A communication system according to any of claims 122 to 125, wherein the decoder of the recovery means comprises:

30 means for generating a pseudo-noise code; and
 a correlator for correlating a code sequence conveyed by the direct sequence spread spectrum signal and the generated pseudo-noise code to de-spread the direct sequence spread spectrum signal.

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128. A communication system according to any of claims 118 to 127, wherein the encoder further comprises an

113

audio mixer for mixing the audio signal and the data signal to generate a modified audio signal.

5 129. A communication system according to claim 128, wherein said audio mixer comprises means for combining the audio signal and the data signal by performing a weighted addition in accordance with at least one weighting factor.

10 130. A communication system according to claim 129, wherein the combining means further comprises means for varying the at least one weighting factor.

15 131. A communication system according to claim 130, wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one weighting factor.

20 132. A communication system according to claim 130, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the level of tonality of the audio signal; and

25 means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the processed audio signal and the data signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the audio signal.

133. A communication system according to claim 130, wherein the varying means comprises:

30 means for determining the power level of the audio signal;

means for determining the power level of the data signal; and

35 means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the audio signal and the data signal in dependence upon the determined power levels of the audio signal and the data signal.

114

134. A communication system according to claim 128, wherein said audio mixer comprises:

means for shaping the data signal in dependence on the audio signal to generate a shaped signal; and

5 means for combining the shaped signal and the audio signal to form the modified audio signal.

135. A communication system according to claim 134, wherein the combining means comprises means for performing a weighted addition of the audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon at least one weighting factor.

136. A communication system according to claim 135, wherein the combining means further comprises means for varying the at least one weighting factor.

137. A communication system according to claim 136, wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one weighting factor.

138. A communication system according to claim 136, wherein the varying means comprises:

25 means for determining the level of tonality of the audio signal; and

means for determining the at least one weighting factor for the audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the processed audio signal.

139. A communication system according to claim 136, wherein the varying means comprises:

35 means for determining the power level of the audio signal;

means for determining the power level of the shaped signal; and

115

means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined power levels of the audio signal and the shaped signal.

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140. A communication system according to claim 128, wherein the audio mixer comprises:

means for modelling the audio signal to generate a modelled signal;

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means for differencing the modelled signal and the audio signal to generate a residual signal; and

means for spectrally shaping the data signal in dependence upon the residual signal in order to form a shaped signal.

15

141. A communication system according to claim 140, wherein the modelling means comprises:

means for applying a time series model to generate a plurality of coefficients indicative of the audio signal; and

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means for synthesising the modelled signal using the generated coefficients.

142. A communication system according to claim 141, further comprising means for modifying the time series model in order to vary the number of coefficients generated by the time series model.

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143. A communication system according to claim 142, wherein the modifying means comprises a user interface, and wherein the modifying means is arranged to vary the number of generated coefficients in accordance with a user signal received via the user interface.

30

144. A communication system according to claim 142, wherein the modifying means comprises means for determining the level of tonality of the audio signal,

35

and wherein the modifying means is arranged to vary the number of generated coefficients in accordance with the determined level of tonality.

5 145. A communication system according to any of claims 141 to 144, wherein the time series modelling means is arranged to apply a linear predictive coding analysis to determine said coefficients.

10 146. A communication system according to any of claims 140 to 145, wherein the shaping means comprises:

 means for spectrally analysing the residual signal to generate a first plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

15 means for synthesising a plurality of scaling factors in accordance with the first plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

 means for spectrally analysing the data signal to generate a second plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

20 means for scaling the second plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients using the plurality of scaling factors to generate a plurality of scaled coefficients; and

25 means for generating the shaped signal using the plurality of scaled coefficients.

30 147. A communication system according to claim 146, wherein the scaling factors generation means is operable to perform a psycho-acoustic analysis of the first plurality of frequency dependent coefficients.

35 148. A communication system according to claim 147, wherein the scaling factors generation means comprises a psycho-acoustic filter for performing the psycho-acoustic analysis.

117

149. A communication system according to claim 148,
wherein the psycho-acoustic filter has a variable
bandwidth, and wherein said scaling factors generation
means comprises means for varying the variable bandwidth
of the psycho-acoustic filter.

150. A communication system according to claim 149,
wherein said varying means comprises a user interface and
means for setting the bandwidth of the psycho-acoustic
filter in accordance with a user input received via the
user interface.

151. A communication system according to claim 149,
wherein the varying means comprises:
means for determining the level of tonality of the
residual signal; and
means for setting the bandwidth of the psycho-
acoustic filter in accordance with the determined level
of tonality.

152. A communication system according to any of claims
140 to 151, wherein the mixing means further comprises
combining means for performing a weighted addition of the
residual signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon
at least one weighting factor.

153. A communication system according to claim 152,
wherein the combining means further comprises means for
varying the at least one weighting factor.

154. A communication system according to claim 153,
wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for
receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one
weighting factor.

155. A communication system according to claim 153,
wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the level of tonality of the residual signal; and

5 means for determining weighting factor for the residual signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the residual signal.

10 156. A communication system according to any of claims 117 to 155, wherein the electro-acoustic transducer is coupled to the generating means by a media broadcast network.

15 157. A communication system according to claim 156, wherein the media broadcast network is a television network, and wherein the electro-acoustic transducer forms part of a television.

20 158. A communication system according to claim 156, wherein the media broadcast network is a radio network, and wherein the electro-acoustic transducer forms part of a radio.

25 159. A communication system according to any of claims 117 to 155, further comprising a storage medium storing the data signal,
wherein the generating means is operable to generate the electrical signal conveying the data signal by reading the data signal stored by the storage medium.

30 160. A communication system according to claim 159, wherein the storage medium is a compact disk.

161. A communication system according to claim 159, wherein the storage medium is a digital versatile disk.

35 162. A communication system according to any of claims 117 to 155, wherein the electro-acoustic transducer is coupled to the generating means by a public address

network.

163. A communication network according to any of claims
117 to 162, wherein the recovery means forms part of the
5 telecommunications network.

164. A communication system according to any of claims
117 to 162, wherein the recovery means forms part of the
10 telecommunications apparatus.

165. A communication system according to claim 164,
wherein the recovery means further comprises response
means responsive to the data provided by the data signal.

166. A communication system according to claim 165,
15 wherein the response means comprises means for storing
information provided by the data signal.

167. A communication system according to claim 166,
20 wherein the telecommunications apparatus further
comprises means for outputting a ring tone in response
to a signal from the telecommunications network,
wherein the data signal comprises ring tone data
defining a ring tone,

25 wherein the response means is arranged to store the
ring tone data in the storing means,

and wherein the ring tone outputting means is
operable to output the ring tone defined by the ring tone
data stored in said storing means.

168. A communication system according to claim 166,
30 wherein the storing means is configured to store a
database for associating a plurality of identifications
with a respective plurality of telecommunications
addresses,

35 wherein the data signal conveys an identification
and an associated telecommunications address, and
wherein the response means is operable to store said

120

identification and associated telecommunications address in said database.

5 169. A communication system according to any of claims 165 to 168, wherein the telecommunications apparatus further comprises a display, and wherein the response means is operable to display information conveyed by the data signal on the display.

10 170. A communication system according to any of claims 165 to 169, wherein the response means is arranged, in response to data provided by the data signal, to switch the telecommunications apparatus to a silent mode in which the telecommunications apparatus does not emit
15 acoustic signals.

20 171. A communication system according to any of claims 165 to 170, wherein the response means is arranged, in response to data provided by the data signal, to switch the telecommunications apparatus to a mode in which the telecommunications apparatus does not emit radio frequency signals.

25 172. A communication system according to any of claims 165 to 171, wherein the response means comprises means for executing a computer program in response to data provided by the data signal.

30 173. A communication system according to claim 172, wherein the computer program is conveyed by the data signal, and wherein the telecommunications apparatus further comprises means for storing the computer program in a data store.

35 174. A communication system according to claim 172, wherein the telecommunications apparatus further comprises a data store for storing the computer program,

121

wherein the executing means is operable to execute a computer program stored in the data store in response to an initialisation signal conveyed by the data signal.

5 175. A communication system according to any of claims 172 to 174, wherein the executing means is operable to execute a Java application file.

10 176. A communication system according to any of claims 165 to 175, wherein the response means comprises:

 means for outputting a signal, via the telecommunications network, to a remote information source having a telecommunications address identifiable from data provided by the data signal; and

15 means for receiving, via the telecommunications network, an information signal from the information source.

20 177. A communication system according to claim 176, wherein the response means further comprises:

 means for storing a telecommunications address conveyed by the data signal;

25 means for notifying a user when the telecommunications address is stored in the storing means; and

 a user interface for receiving a user input, wherein the outputting means is arranged to output the signal to the remote information source in response to a user input via the user interface.

30 178. A communication system according to claim 177, wherein the notifying means comprises a display for displaying information to a user.

35 179. A communication system according to claim 177 or 178, wherein the user interface comprises a keyboard having a plurality of keys.

180. A communication system according to claim 179, wherein one of said plurality of keys is dedicated to receiving a user input in response to which the outputting means is operable to output the signal to the remote information source.

181. A communication system according to any of claims 176 to 180, wherein the data provided by the data signal comprises a telephone number, and wherein the telecommunications apparatus comprises means for transmitting a signal, via the telecommunications network, to the telecommunications address corresponding to the telephone number.

182. A communication system according to any of claims 176 to 180, wherein the data provided by the data signal comprises a uniform resource locator, and wherein the telecommunications apparatus comprises means for transmitting a signal, via the telecommunications network, to the telecommunications address corresponding to the uniform resource locator.

183. A communication system according to any of claims 176 to 180, wherein the data provided by the data signal comprises an Internet Protocol address, and wherein the telecommunications apparatus comprises means for transmitting a signal, via the telecommunications network, to the Internet Protocol address.

184. A communication system according to any of claims 176 to 180, wherein the data provided by the data signal comprises an index value for a look-up table, the look-up table associating each of a plurality of index values with a respective one of a plurality of telecommunication addresses, and wherein the telecommunications apparatus comprises means for transmitting a signal to the telecommunication address associated with a received

index value in the look-up table.

185. A communication system according to claim 184,
wherein the telecommunications apparatus further
5 comprises storage means configured to store said look-up
table.

186. A communication system according to claim 184,
further comprising a server coupled to the
10 telecommunications network, said server storing said
look-up table,

wherein the transmitting means is arranged to
transmit the index value, via the telecommunications
network, to the server at which the look-up table is
15 stored.

187. A communication system according to any of claims
165 to 186, wherein the response means comprises means
for transmitting a signal comprising data provided by the
20 data signal, via the telecommunications network, to a
remote device.

188. A communication system according to claim 187,
wherein the generating means is operable to generate an
25 electrical signal conveying audience survey data,

wherein the remote device is an audience survey
station operable to collate audience survey data from a
plurality of telecommunications apparatuses, and

wherein the telecommunications apparatus is operable
30 to transmit the audience survey data and identification
data associated with the telecommunications address of
the telecommunications apparatus to the audience survey
station.

189. A communication system according to claim 188,
wherein the audience survey data comprises a media
channel identifier, and wherein the audience survey

station comprises:

a database storing a plurality of program identifiers, a plurality of media channel identifiers and a plurality of time period identifiers, each program identifier being associated with a corresponding media channel identifier and a corresponding time period identifier;

means for generating a time period identifier on receipt of audience survey data from the telecommunications network, the time signal identifier corresponding to a current timing;

means for determining the program identifier corresponding to the received media channel identifier and the generated time period identifier using the database; and

a data store for storing data corresponding to the determined program identifier and the telecommunications address received from the telecommunications network with the media channel identifier.

190. A communication system according to any of claims 187 to 189, wherein the telecommunications apparatus further comprises means for determining the location of the telecommunications apparatus,

wherein the output means is operable to output a signal comprising data provided by the data signal and data identifying the determined location of the telecommunications apparatus.

191. A communication system according to any of claims 187 to 190, wherein the remote device comprises:

means for generating an information signal which varies in dependence upon said output signal output by the telecommunications apparatus; and

means for transmitting the information signal to the telecommunications apparatus.

192. A communication system according to any of claims 165 to 191, further comprising an information source coupled to the telecommunications network, the information source comprising: i) means for storing a plurality of information signals, each information signal corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of data identifiers; ii) means for receiving from the telecommunications network a data identifier; and iii) means for outputting the information signal corresponding to a received data identifier,

wherein the generating means is arranged to generate an electrical signal conveying a data identifier, and wherein the response means comprises: i) means for outputting a signal comprising a data identifier provided by the data signal, via the telecommunications network, to the information source; and ii) means for receiving from the information source, via the telecommunications network, the information signal which corresponds to the output data identifier.

193. A communication system according to any of claims 116 to 192, further comprising means for configuring the telecommunications apparatus such that the audio processing means is disabled and the data processing means is enabled.

194. A communication system comprising:
a data signal generator, coupled to a telecommunications network, for generating an electrical signal conveying a data signal for transmission to the telecommunications network;

a telecommunications apparatus coupled to the telecommunications network, the telecommunications apparatus comprising: i) means for receiving the electrical signal from the telecommunications network and ii) an electro-acoustic transducer for converting received electrical signals into corresponding acoustic

signals;

an acousto-electric transducer for converting the acoustic signals into corresponding electrical signals; and

5 a reception apparatus, coupled to the acousto-electric transducer, for receiving the acoustic signal and for recovering the data signal.

10 195. A communication system according to claim 194, further comprising an encoder for encoding the data signal generated by the data signal generator within an audio signal for broadcasting using the electro-acoustic transducer.

15 196. A communication system according to claim 195, wherein the encoder comprises means for modulating the data signal to form a modulated signal, and wherein the reception apparatus comprises means for demodulating the electrical signal received by the acousto-electric
20 transducer.

197. A communication system according to claim 196, wherein the modulating means comprises: i) means for generating an oscillation signal having an oscillation
25 frequency; ii) means for analysing the audio signal to identify a peak frequency range; and iii) means for varying the oscillation frequency of the oscillation signal to be within the identified peak frequency range, and wherein the demodulating means comprises i)
30 means for generating an oscillation signal having an oscillation frequency; ii) means for analysing the electrical signal received by the acousto-electric transducer to identify a peak frequency range; and iii) means for varying the oscillation frequency of the
35 oscillation signal in dependence upon the identified peak frequency range.

198. A communication system according to claim 196 or 197, wherein the encoder comprises means for spreading the data signal to generate a spread spectrum signal for broadcast by the electro-acoustic transducer, and wherein
5 the reception apparatus comprises a decoder for processing the spread spectrum signal received by the acousto-electric transducer to recover the data signal.

199. A communication system according to claim 198,
10 wherein the spreading means comprises a first pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a first pseudo-noise code, and wherein the spreading means is operable to perform direct sequence spread spectrum encoding using the first pseudo-noise code to generate
15 a direct sequence spread spectrum signal.

200. A communication system according to claim 199, wherein the spreading means is operable to combine each data element of the data signal with a part of the first
20 pseudo-noise code.

201. A communication system according to claim 199, wherein the spreading means further comprises a second pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a second
25 pseudo-noise code which is different to the first pseudo-noise code,

wherein the spreading means is arranged to combine each data element of the data signal with a code sequence from either the first pseudo-noise code or the second
30 pseudo-noise code in dependence upon the value of the data element.

202. A communication system according to claim 201, wherein the second pseudo-noise code generator is
35 arranged to generate a second pseudo-noise code which is orthogonal to the first pseudo-noise code.

203. A communication system according to any of claims 199 to 202, wherein the decoder of the reception apparatus comprises:

- means for generating a pseudo-noise code;
- 5 means for synchronising the generated pseudo-noise code and a code sequence conveyed by the direct sequence spread spectrum signal; and
- 10 means for multiplying the synchronised pseudo-noise code and the direct sequence spread spectrum signal to de-spread the direct sequence spread spectrum signal.

204. A communication system according to any of claims 199 to 202, wherein the decoder of the reception apparatus comprises:

- 15 means for generating a pseudo-noise code; and
- 20 a correlator for correlating a code sequence conveyed by the direct sequence spread spectrum signal and the generated pseudo-noise code to de-spread the direct sequence spread spectrum signal.

205. A communication system according to any of claims 195 to 204, wherein the encoder further comprises an audio mixer for mixing the audio signal and the data signal to generate a modified audio signal.

206. A communication system according to claim 205, wherein said audio mixer comprises means for combining the audio signal and the data signal by performing a weighted addition in accordance with at least one weighting factor.

207. A communication system according to claim 206, wherein the combining means further comprises means for varying the at least one weighting factor.

208. A communication system according to claim 207, wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for

receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one weighting factor.

5 209. A communication system according to claim 207, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the level of tonality of the audio signal; and

10 means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the processed audio signal and the data signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the audio signal.

210. A communication system according to claim 207, wherein the varying means comprises:

15 means for determining the power level of the audio signal;

means for determining the power level of the data signal; and

20 means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the audio signal and the data signal in dependence upon the determined power levels of the audio signal and the data signal.

25 211. A communication system according to claim 205, wherein said audio mixer comprises:

means for shaping the data signal in dependence on the audio signal to generate a shaped signal; and

30 means for combining the shaped signal and the audio signal to form the modified audio signal.

212. A communication system according to claim 211, wherein the combining means comprises means for performing a weighted addition of the audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon at least one
35 weighting factor.

213. A communication system according to claim 212,

wherein the combining means further comprises means for varying the at least one weighting factor.

5 214. A communication system according to claim 213, wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one weighting factor.

10 215. A communication system according to claim 213, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the level of tonality of the audio signal; and

15 means for determining the at least one weighting factor for the audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the processed audio signal.

20 216. A communication system according to claim 213, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the power level of the audio signal;

means for determining the power level of the shaped signal; and

25 means for setting the at least one weighting factor for the audio signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined power levels of the audio signal and the shaped signal.

30 217. A communication system according to claim 205, wherein the audio mixer comprises:

means for modelling the audio signal to generate a modelled signal;

means for differencing the modelled signal and the audio signal to generate a residual signal; and

35 means for spectrally shaping the data signal in dependence upon the residual signal in order to form a shaped signal.

218. A communication system according to claim 217, wherein the modelling means comprises:

5 means for applying a time series model to generate a plurality of coefficients indicative of the audio signal; and

means for synthesising the modelled signal using the generated coefficients.

10 219. A communication system according to claim 218, further comprising means for modifying the time series model in order to vary the number of coefficients generated by the time series model.

15 220. A communications system according to claim 219, wherein the modifying means comprises a user interface, and wherein the modifying means is arranged to vary the number of generated coefficients in accordance with a user signal received via the user interface.

20 221. A communication system according to claim 219, wherein the modifying means comprises means for determining the level of tonality of the processed audio signal, and wherein the modifying means is arranged to vary the number of generated coefficients in accordance with the determined level of tonality.

25 222. A communications system according to any of claims 218 to 221, wherein the time series modelling means is arranged to apply a linear predictive coding analysis to determine said coefficients.

30 223. A communication system according to any of claims 217 to 222, wherein the shaping means comprises:

35 means for spectrally analysing the residual signal to generate a first plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

means for synthesising a plurality of scaling

factors in accordance with the first plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

5 means for spectrally analysing the data signal to generate a second plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients;

means for scaling the second plurality of frequency-dependent coefficients using the plurality of scaling factors to generate a plurality of scaled coefficients; and

10 means for generating the shaped signal using the plurality of scaled coefficients.

224. A communication system according to claim 223, wherein the scaling factors generation means is operable to perform a psycho-acoustic analysis of the first plurality of frequency dependent coefficients.

225. A communication system according to claim 224, wherein the scaling factors generation means comprises a psycho-acoustic filter for performing the psycho-acoustic analysis.

226. A communication system according to claim 225, wherein the psycho-acoustic filter has a variable bandwidth, and wherein said scaling factors generation means comprises means for varying the variable bandwidth of the psycho-acoustic filter.

227. A communication system according to claim 226, wherein said varying means comprises a user interface and means for setting the bandwidth of the psycho-acoustic filter in accordance with a user input received via the user interface.

228. A communication system according to claim 226, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the level of tonality of the

residual signal; and

means for setting the bandwidth of the psycho-acoustic filter in accordance with the determined level of tonality.

5

229. A communication system according to any of claims 217 to 228, wherein the audio mixer further comprises combining means for performing a weighted addition of the residual signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon at least one weighting factor.

10

230. A communication system according to claim 229, wherein the combining means further comprises means for varying the at least one weighting factor.

15

231. A communication system according to claim 228, wherein the varying means comprises a user interface for receiving a user signal indicative of the at least one weighting factor.

20

232. A communication system according to claim 228, wherein the varying means comprises:

means for determining the level of tonality of the residual signal; and

25

means for determining a weighting factor for the residual signal and the shaped signal in dependence upon the determined level of tonality of the residual signal.

30

233. A communication system according to any of claims 195 to 232, wherein the encoder forms part of the telecommunications apparatus.

35

234. A communication system according to claim 233, wherein the telecommunications apparatus further comprises a ring tone generator for outputting a ring tone signal to the electro-acoustic transducer in response to a signal from the telecommunications network,

134

and wherein the encoder is arranged to encode the data signal generated by the data signal generator within the ring tone signal.

- 5 235. A communication system according to claim 234, wherein the telecommunications apparatus is a first telecommunications apparatus,
- wherein the communications system further comprises a second telecommunications apparatus having an
- 10 associated telecommunications address,
- wherein the data signal generator forms part of the first telecommunications apparatus,
- and wherein the first telecommunications apparatus further comprises:
- 15 a data store arranged to store a look-up table associating each of a plurality of telecommunications addresses with a respective data signal;
- means for processing a signal received from the second telecommunications apparatus in order to determine
- 20 the telecommunications address of the second telecommunications apparatus; and
- means for determining the data signal associated with the telecommunications address of the second telecommunications apparatus,
- 25 wherein the data signal generator is arranged to generate the data signal associated in the look-up table with the telecommunications address of the second telecommunications apparatus.
- 30 236. A communication system according to any of claims 194 to 235, wherein the reception apparatus comprises a toy having response means for responding to the data signal.
- 35 237. A communication system according to claim 236, wherein the toy is arranged to generate an output which is discernible to human beings.

135

238. A communication system apparatus according to claim 237, wherein the response means is operable to cause the toy to output an acoustic signal determined using the data signal.

5

239. A communication system according to claim 237 or 238, wherein the response means is operable to cause a movement of the toy in response to the data signal.

10

240. A communication system according to any of claims 194 to 235, wherein the reception apparatus comprises a home appliance having response means for responding to the data signal.

15

241. A communication system comprising:

means for generating an electrical signal conveying a data signal;

20

an electro-acoustic transducer, coupled to the generating means, for converting the electrical signal into a corresponding acoustic signal; and

a telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 74 coupled to a telecommunications network.

25

242. A communication system comprising:

a data signal generator, coupled to a telecommunications network, for generating an electrical signal conveying a data signal for transmission to the telecommunications network;

30

a telecommunications apparatus according to any of claim 75 to 116 coupled to the telecommunications network;

35

an acousto-electric converter for receiving an acoustic signal emitted by the telecommunications apparatus and for converting the received acoustic signal into a corresponding electrical signal; and

a reception apparatus coupled to the acousto-electric transducer, for receiving the corresponding

electrical signal and for recovering the data signal.

243. A communication system according to any one of
claims 117 to 242, wherein the telecommunications
5 apparatus comprises means for communication with the
telecommunications network using radio frequency signals.

244. A communication system according to claim 243,
wherein the telecommunications apparatus further
10 comprises a data store storing a protocol stack for
communicating in accordance with the Wireless Application
Protocol.

245. An audience survey apparatus comprising:
15 means for receiving audience survey data from a
telecommunications apparatus via a telecommunications
network, the audience survey data comprising a media
channel identifier and data associated with the
telecommunications apparatus;

20 a database storing a plurality of program
identifiers, a plurality of media channel identifiers and
a plurality of time period identifiers, each program
identifier being associated with a corresponding media
channel identifier and a corresponding time period
25 identifier;

means for generating a time period identifier on
receipt of audience survey data, the time signal
identifier corresponding to a current timing; and

30 means for determining the program identifier
corresponding to the received media channel identifier
and the generated time period identifier using the
database.

246. A telecommunications apparatus comprising:
35 means for receiving acoustic signals and for
converting the received acoustic signals into
corresponding electrical signals;

audio processing means, coupled to said acoustic signals receiving means, for processing acoustic signals received by said acoustic signal receiving means for transmission to a telecommunications network; and

5 position processing means, coupled to said acoustic signal receiving means, for calculating the position of the telecommunications apparatus using one or more acoustic positioning signals received by said acoustic signal receiving means.

10 247. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 246, wherein the acoustic signal receiving means comprises a microphone which is provided in common to the audio processing means and the position processing means.

15 248. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 246 or 247, wherein each acoustic positioning signal is a spread spectrum signal, and wherein said telecommunications apparatus further comprises a decoder
20 for processing a received spread spectrum signal to recover data associated with that spread spectrum signal.

25 249. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 243 to 245, wherein the or each acoustic positioning signal conveys respective coordinate data, and wherein said position processing means comprises means for calculating the position of the telecommunications apparatus based on the coordinates conveyed by received acoustic positioning signals.

30 250. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 246 to 248, wherein the or each acoustic positioning signal conveys a source identifier, and said position processing means comprises:

35 means configured to store a look-up table associating each of a plurality of source identifiers with a respective coordinate;

means for determining the co-ordinate associated with a source identifier conveyed by a received acoustic positioning signal; and

5 means for calculating the position of the telecommunications apparatus using one or more determined coordinates corresponding to one or more source identifiers conveyed by one or more acoustic positioning signals.

10 251. A telecommunications apparatus according to claim 250, wherein the telecommunications apparatus comprises:
means for downloading said look-up table and storing the look-up table in the storing means.

15 252. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 249 to 251, wherein said calculating means is operable to calculate a centroid of a plurality of co-ordinates.

20 253. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 249 to 251, wherein the position processing means comprises:

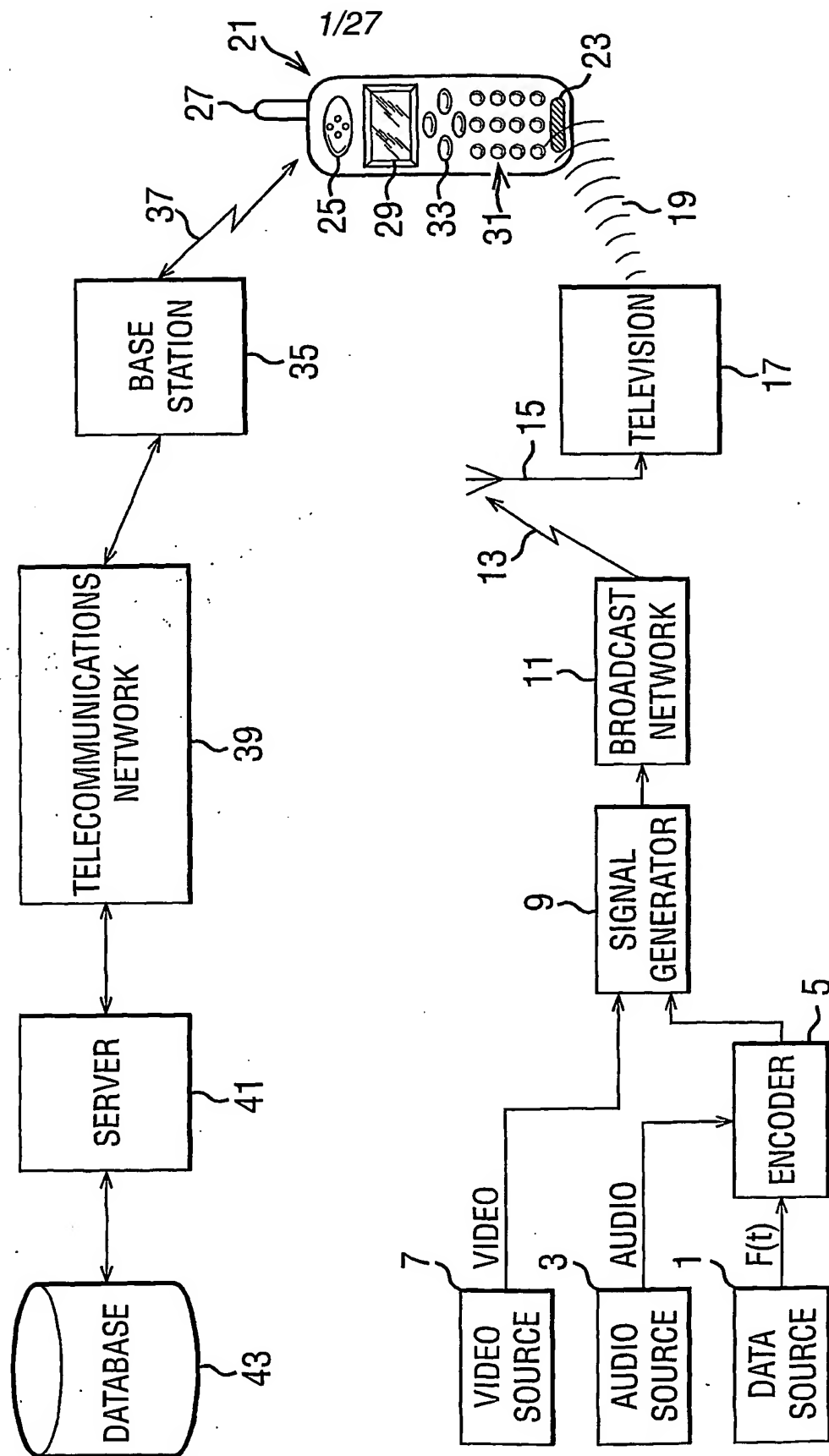
means for measuring the signal strength of each received acoustic positioning signal;

25 means for calculating a weighting factor for each acoustic positioning signal using the measured signal strength; and

30 means for calculating the position of the telecommunications apparatus by performing a weighted average of the coordinates associated with a plurality of received acoustic positioning signals using the respective weighting factors generated by said weighting factor generating means.

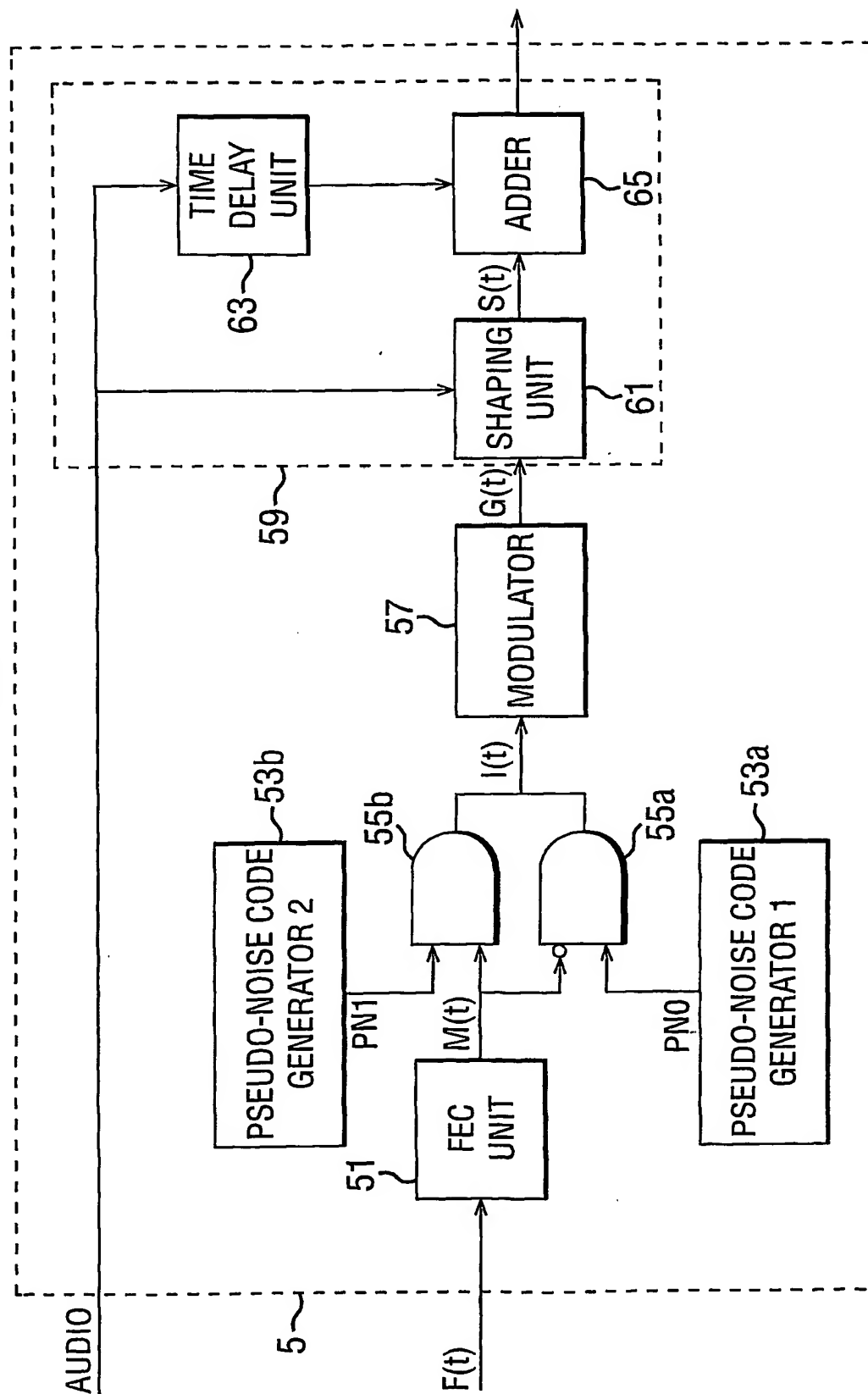
35 254. A telecommunications apparatus according to any of claims 246 to 251, wherein the position processing means comprises means for measuring the relative timing between

a plurality of received acoustic positioning signals; and
means for calculating the position of the
telecommunications apparatus using the measured relative
timing.

Fig. 1

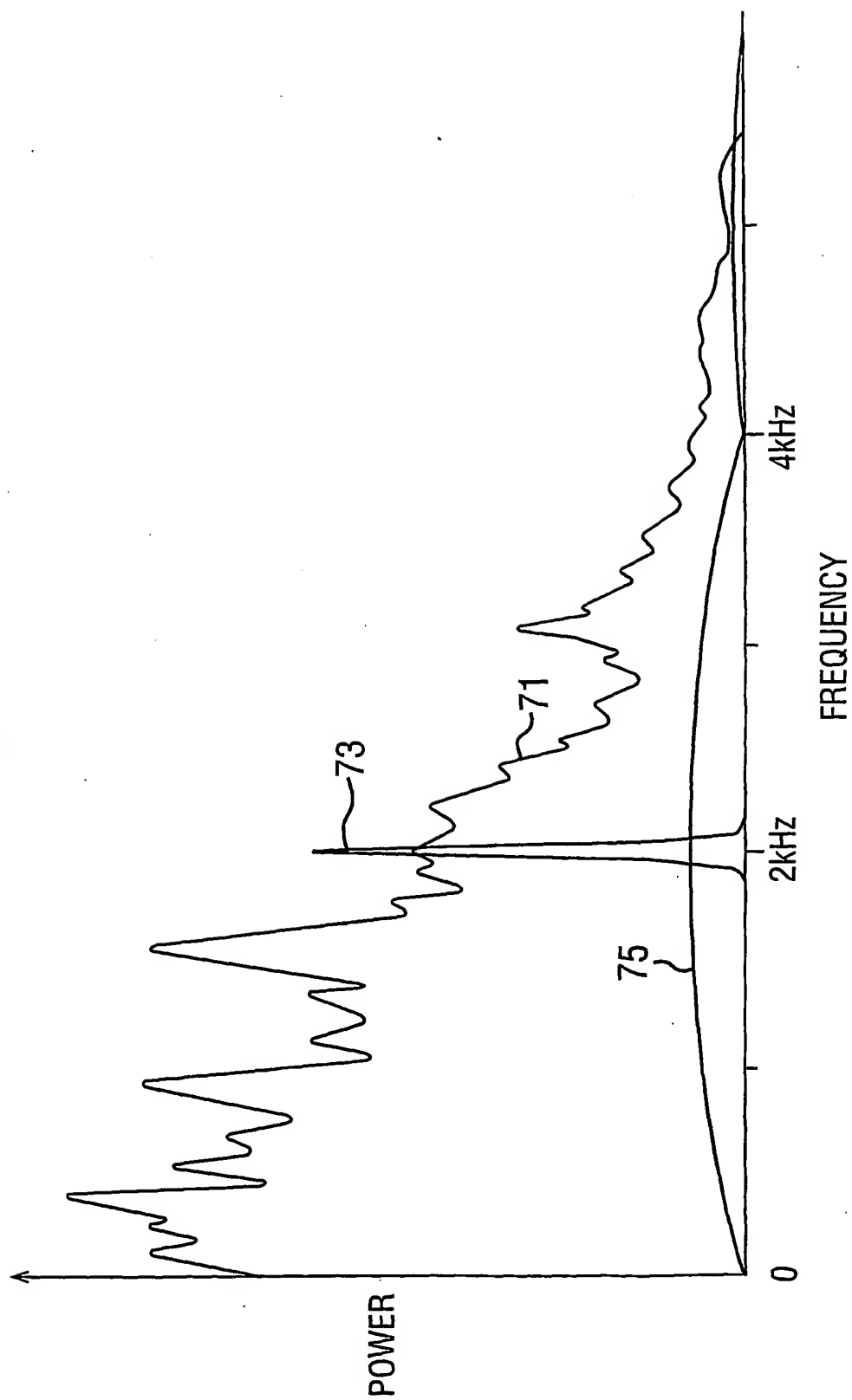
2/27

Fig. 2

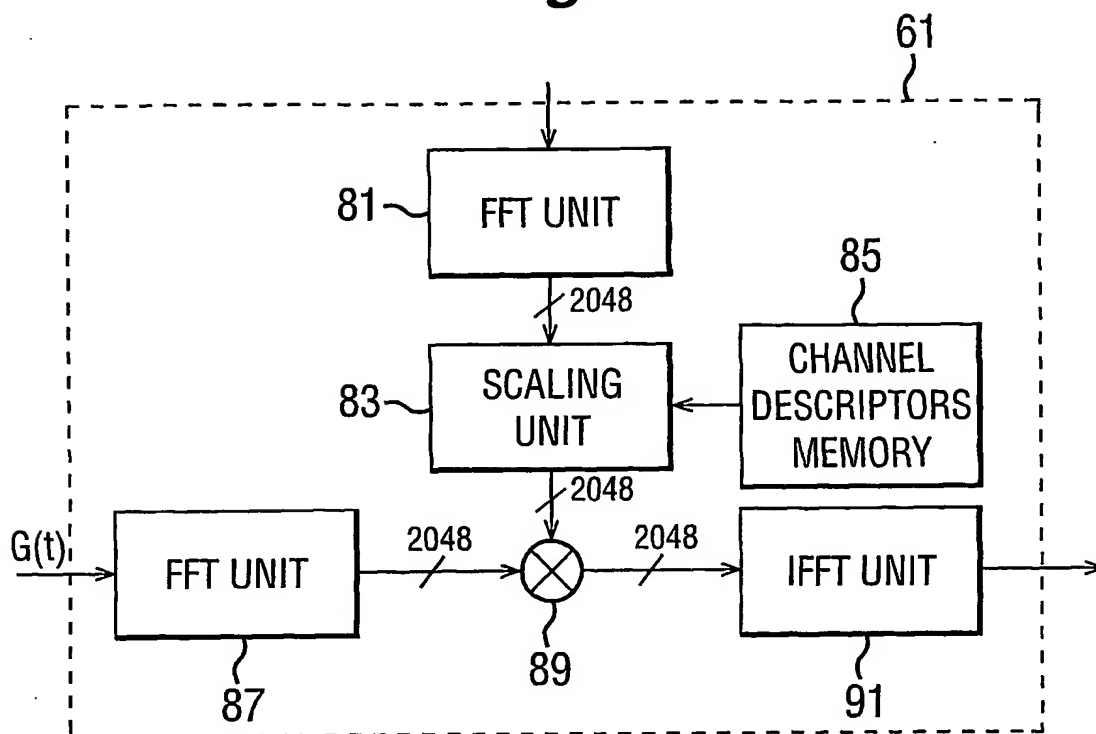
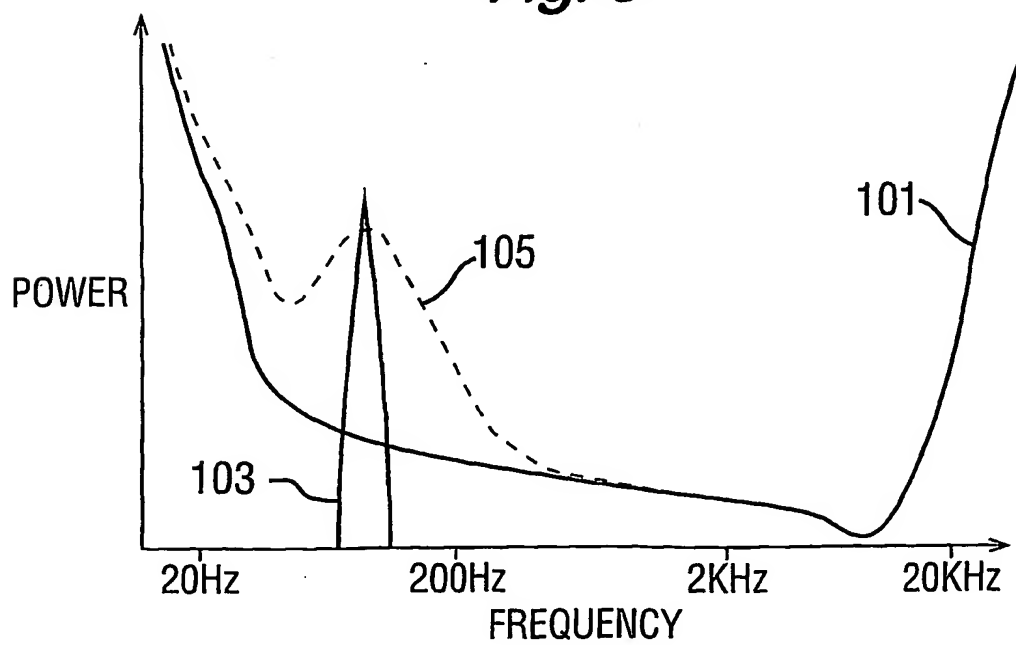


3/27

Fig. 3



4/27

Fig. 4**Fig. 5**

5/27

Fig. 6

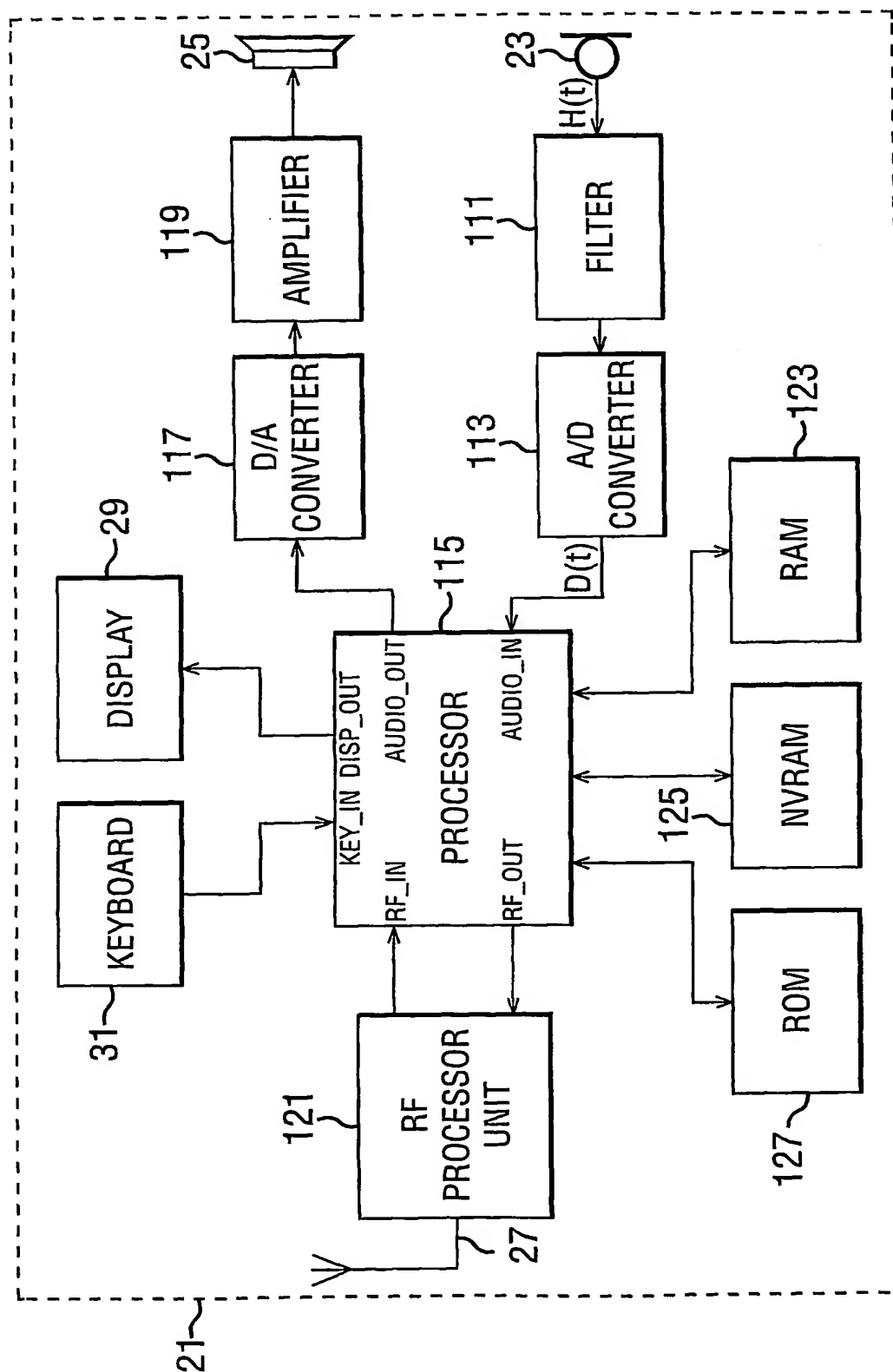
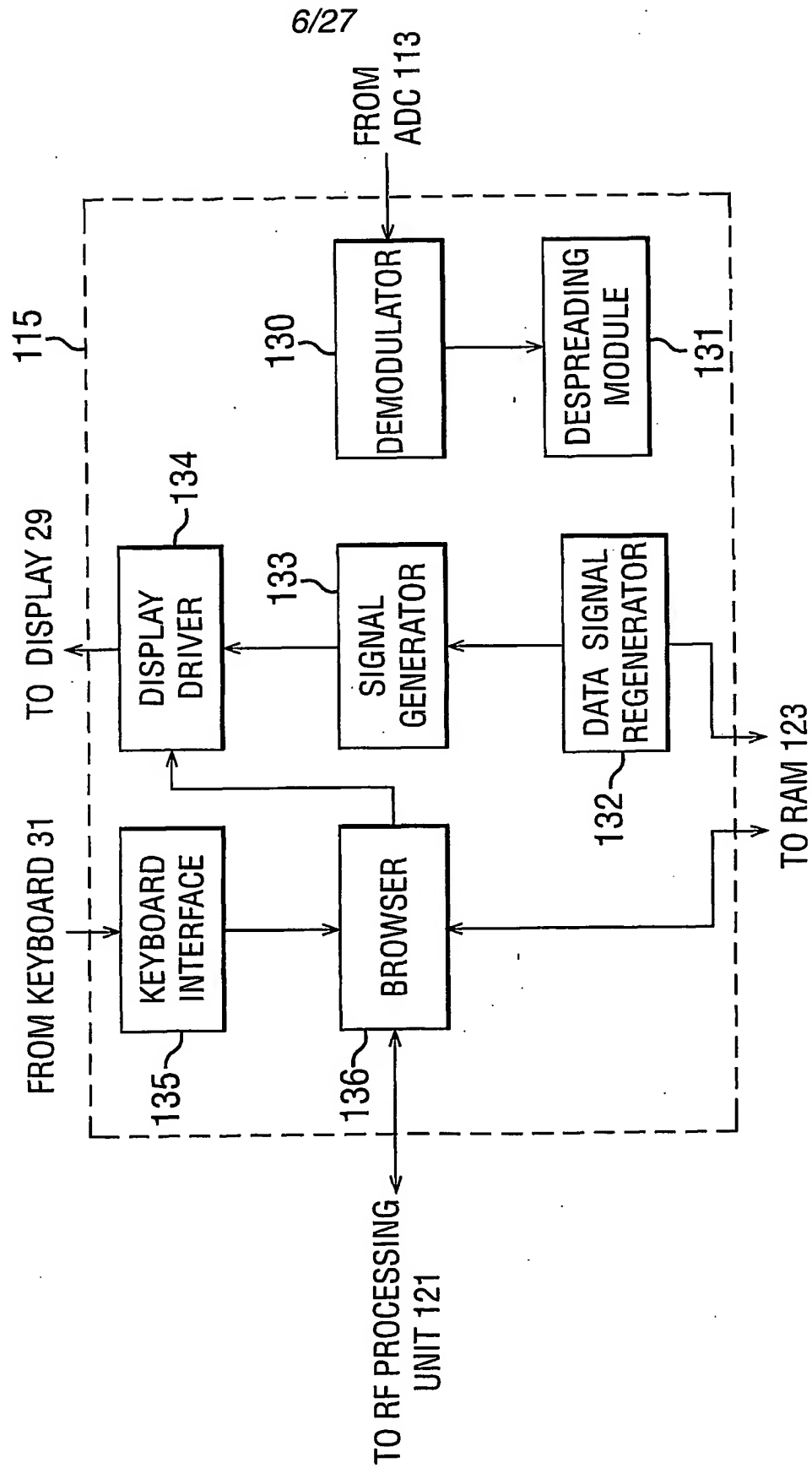
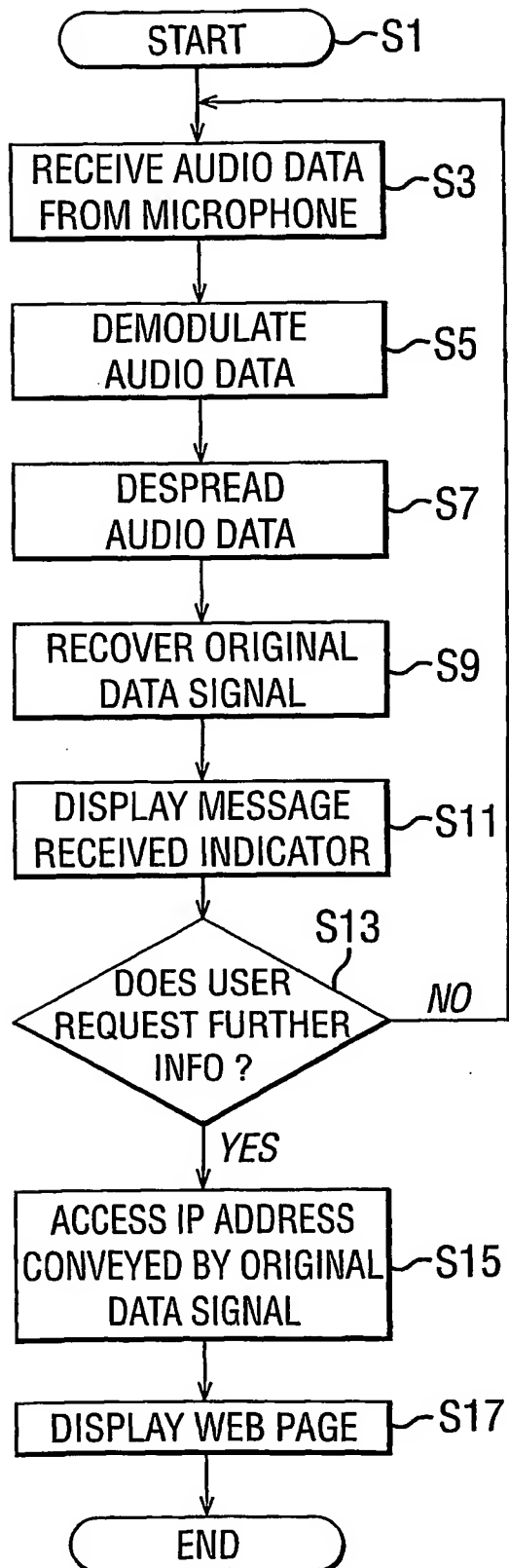


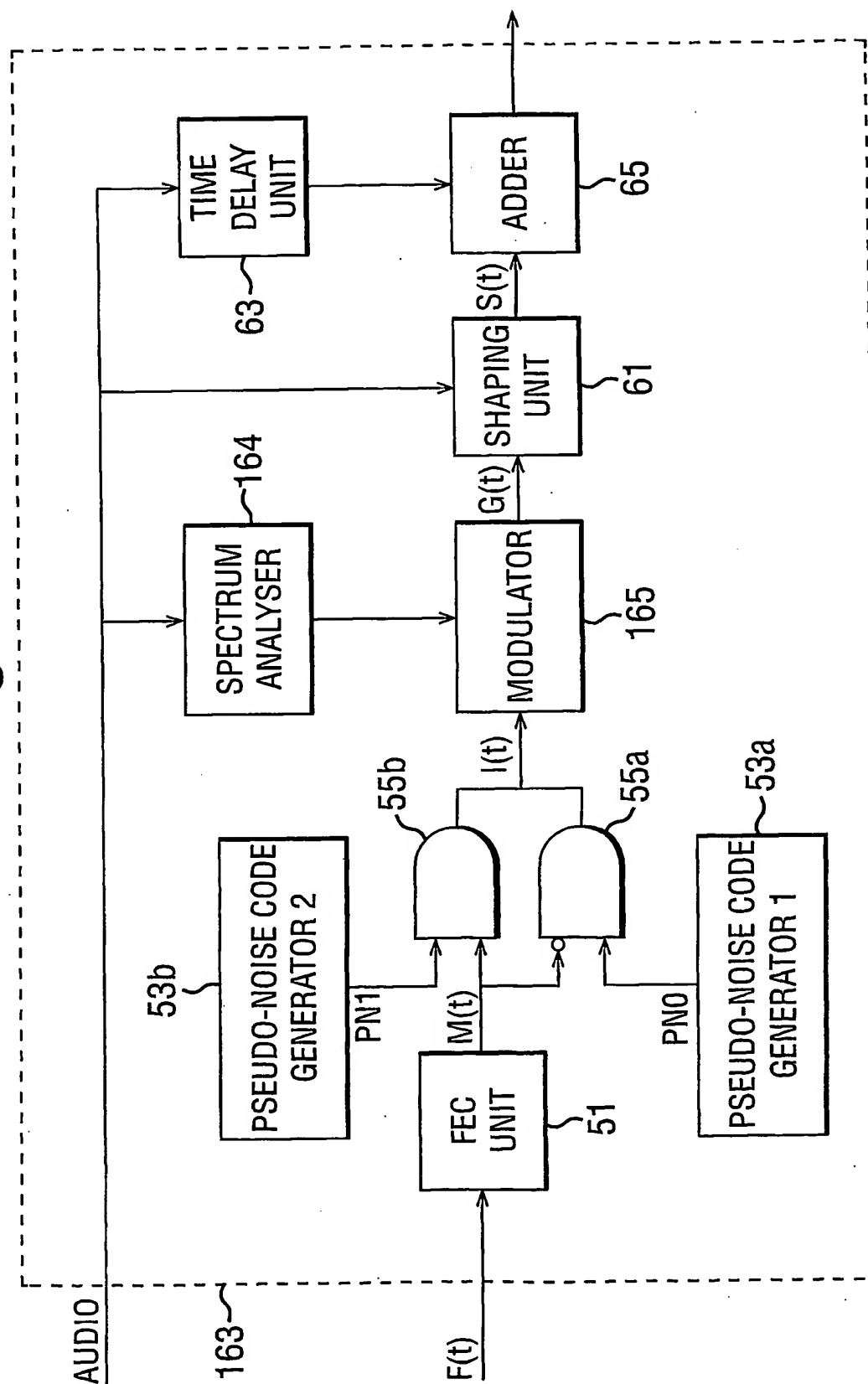
Fig. 7A

7/27

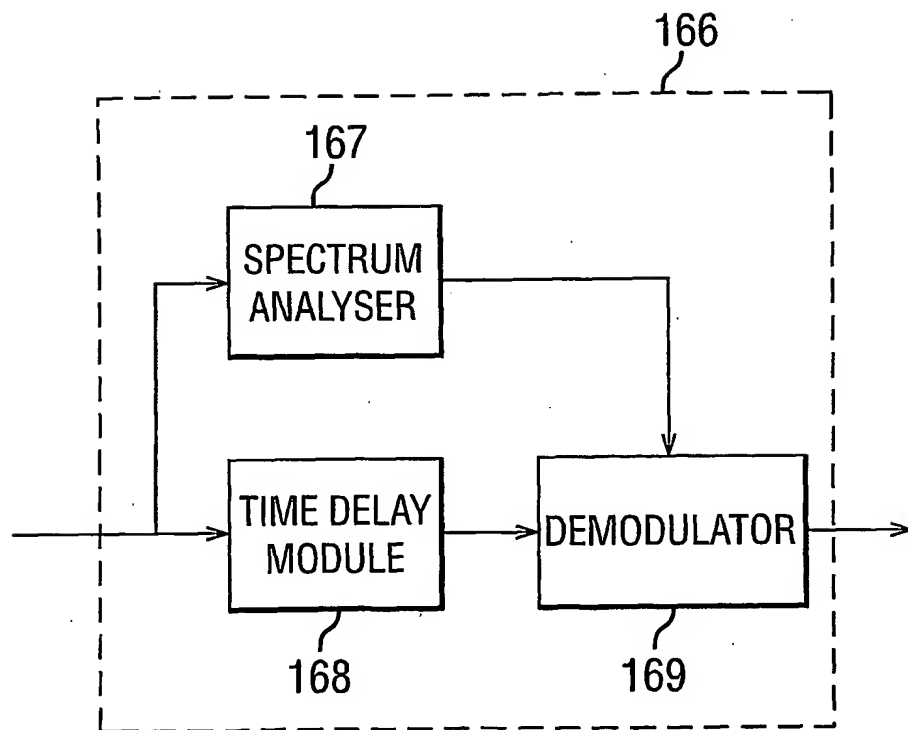
Fig. 7B

8/27

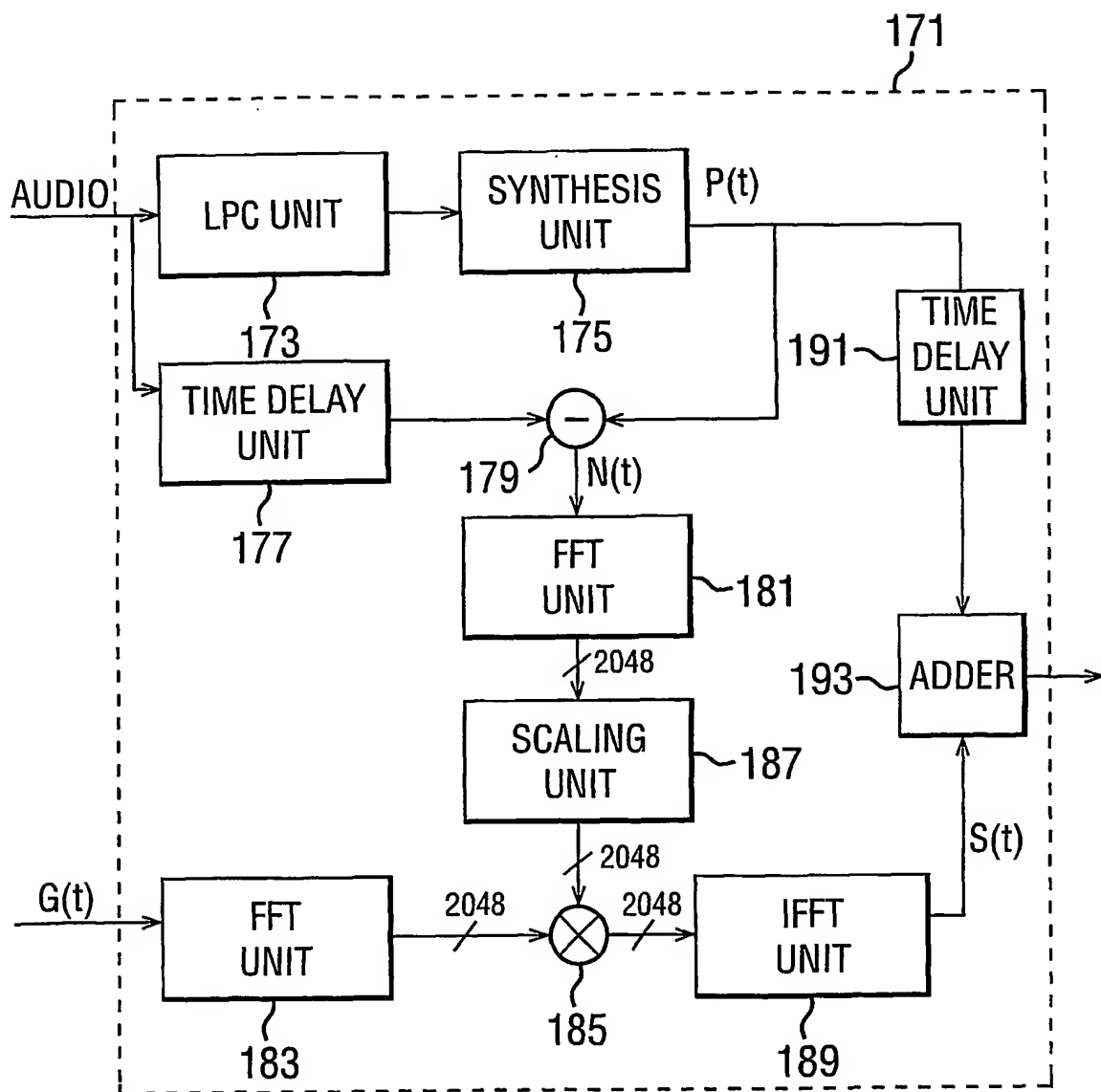
Fig. 8

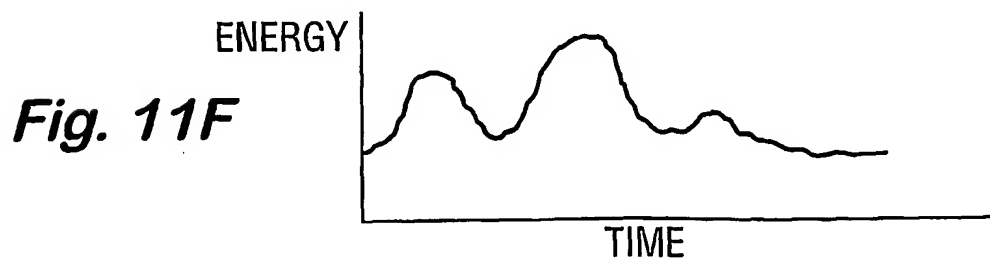
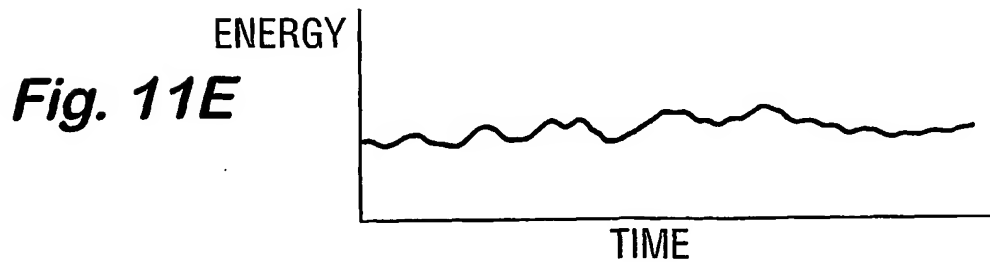
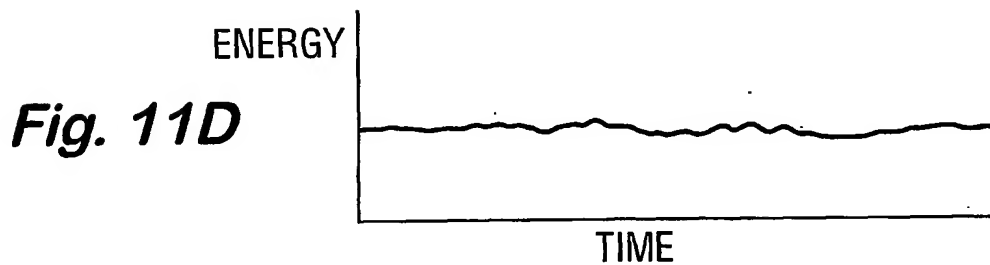
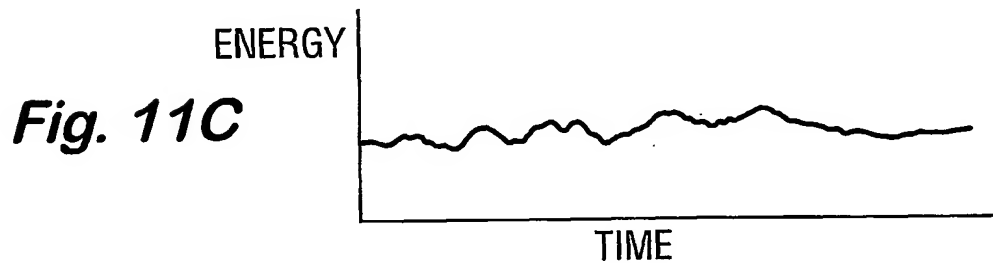
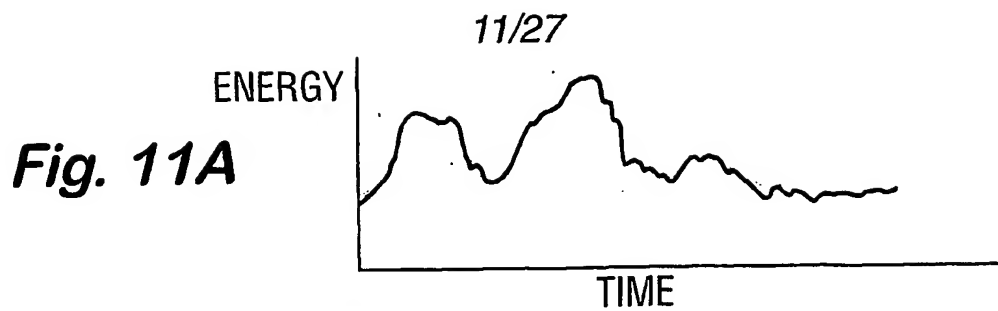


9/27

Fig. 9

10/27

Fig. 10



12/27

Fig. 12

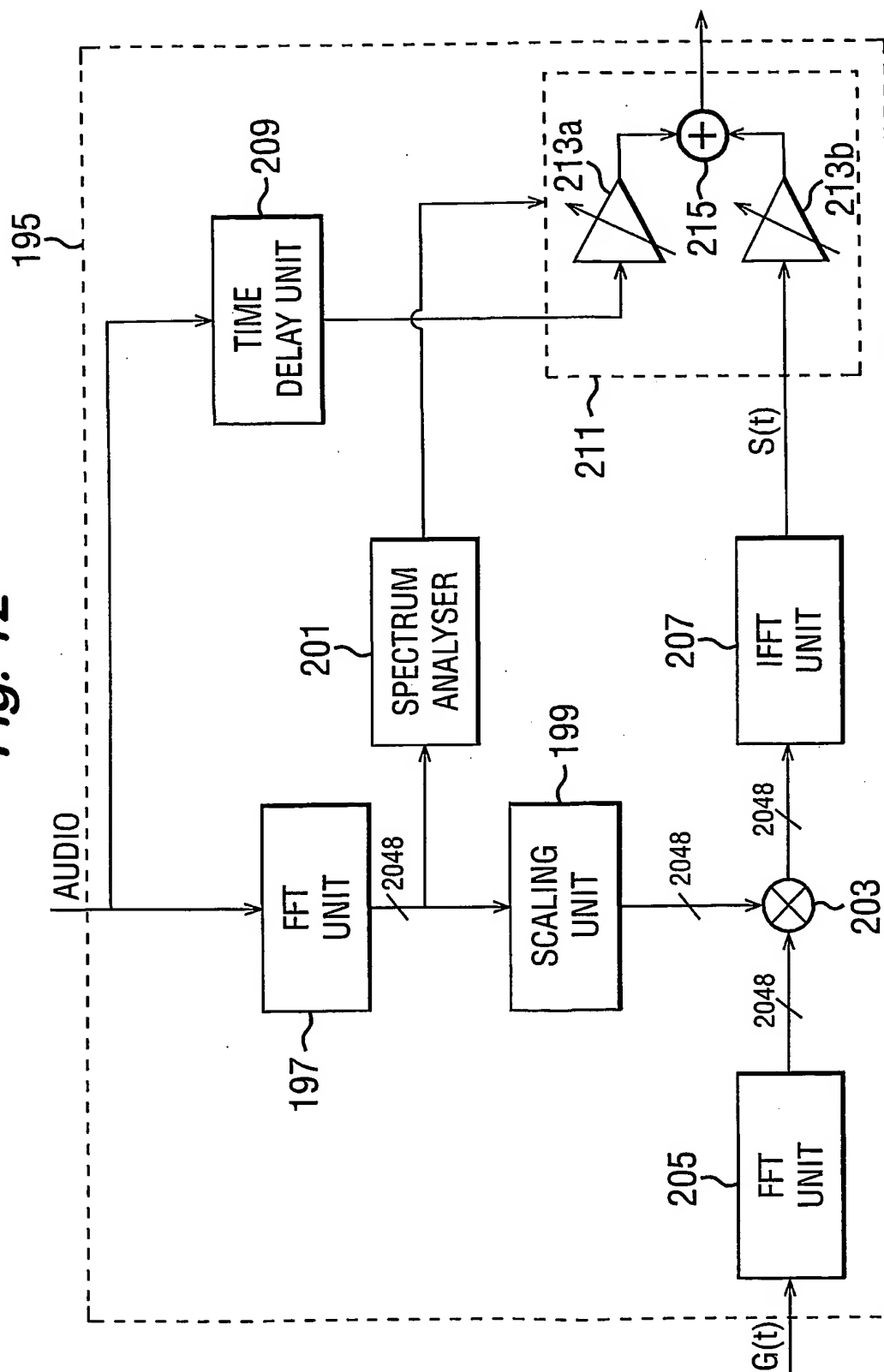


Fig. 13

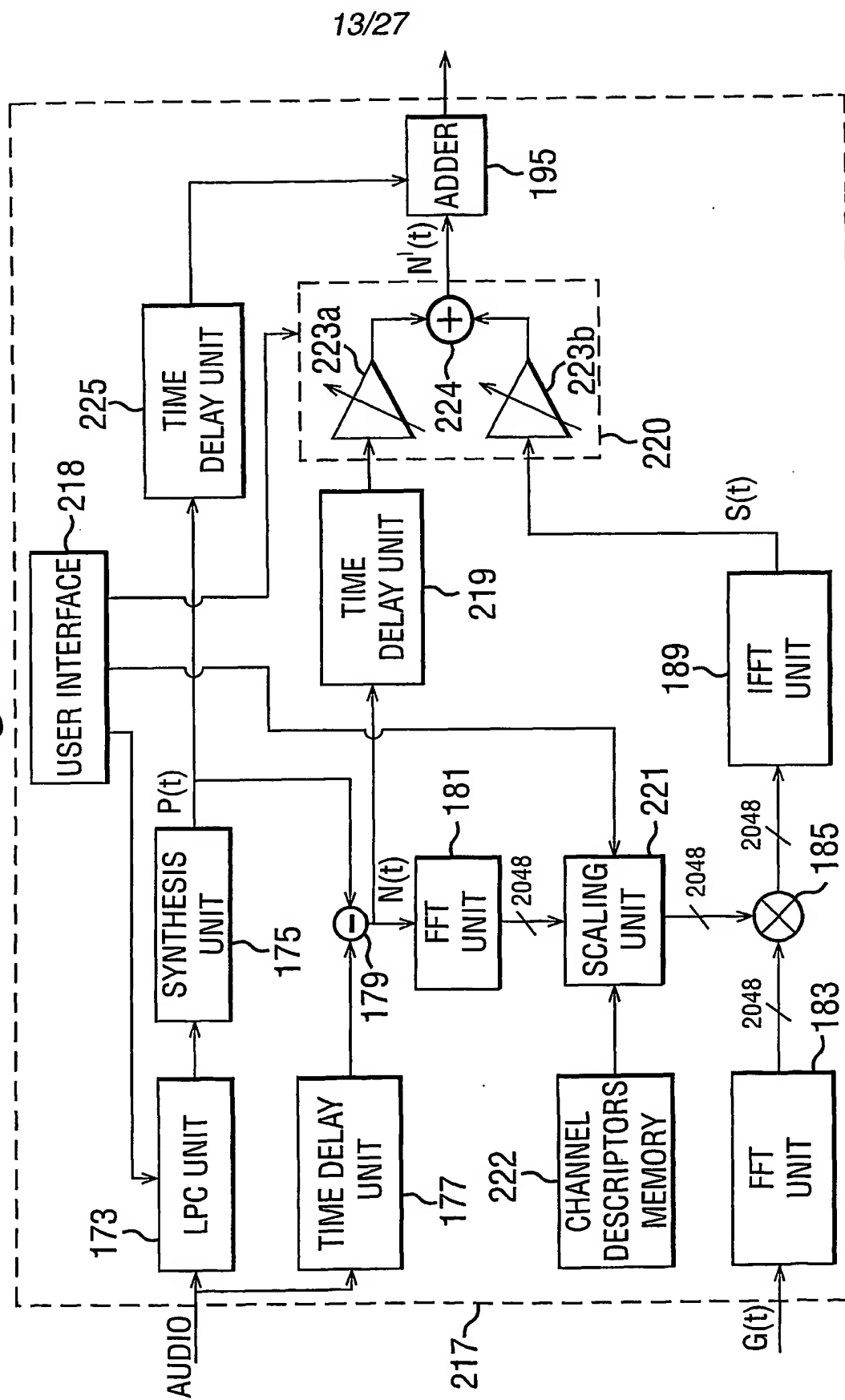
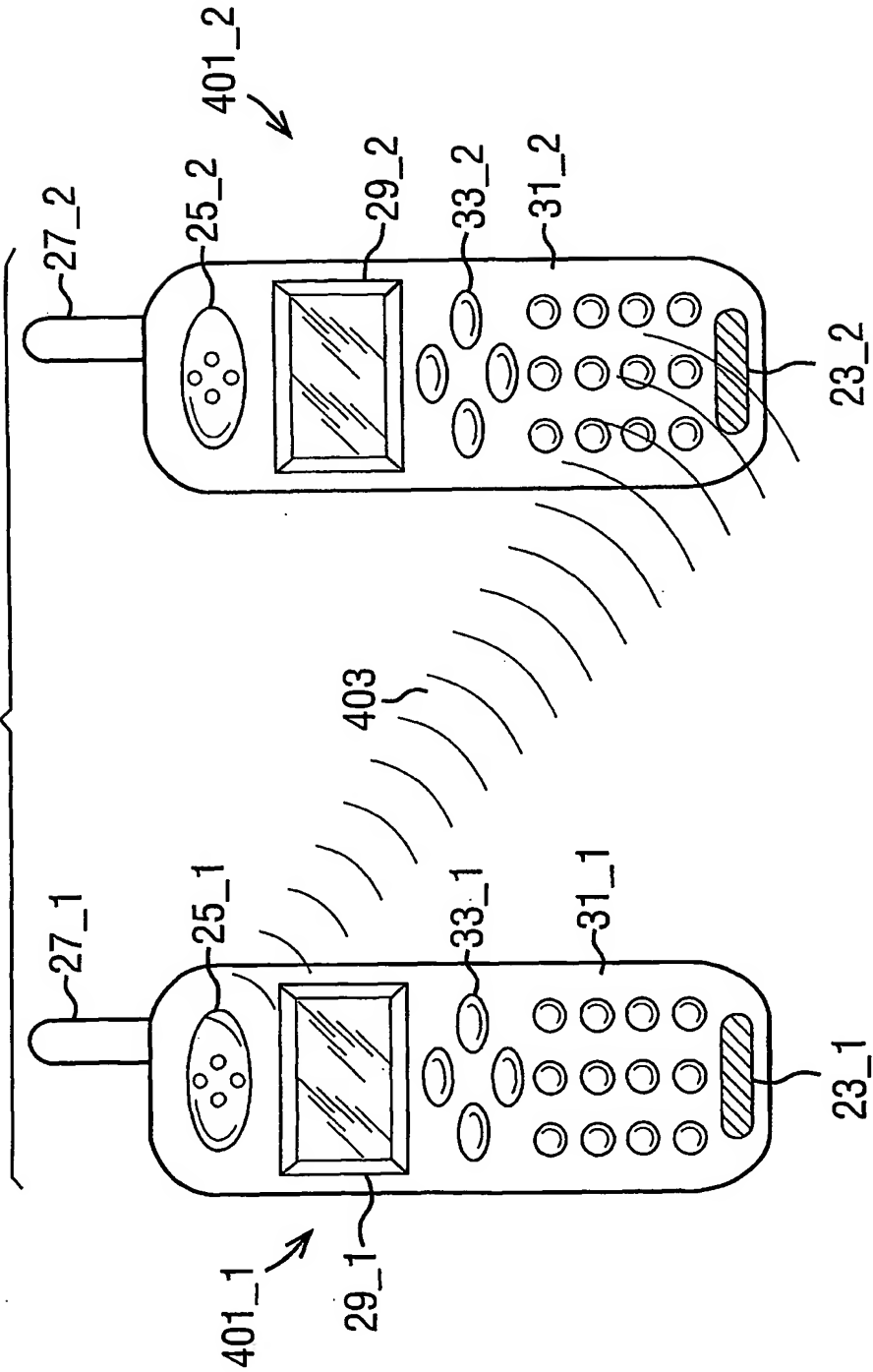


Fig. 14



15/27

Fig. 15

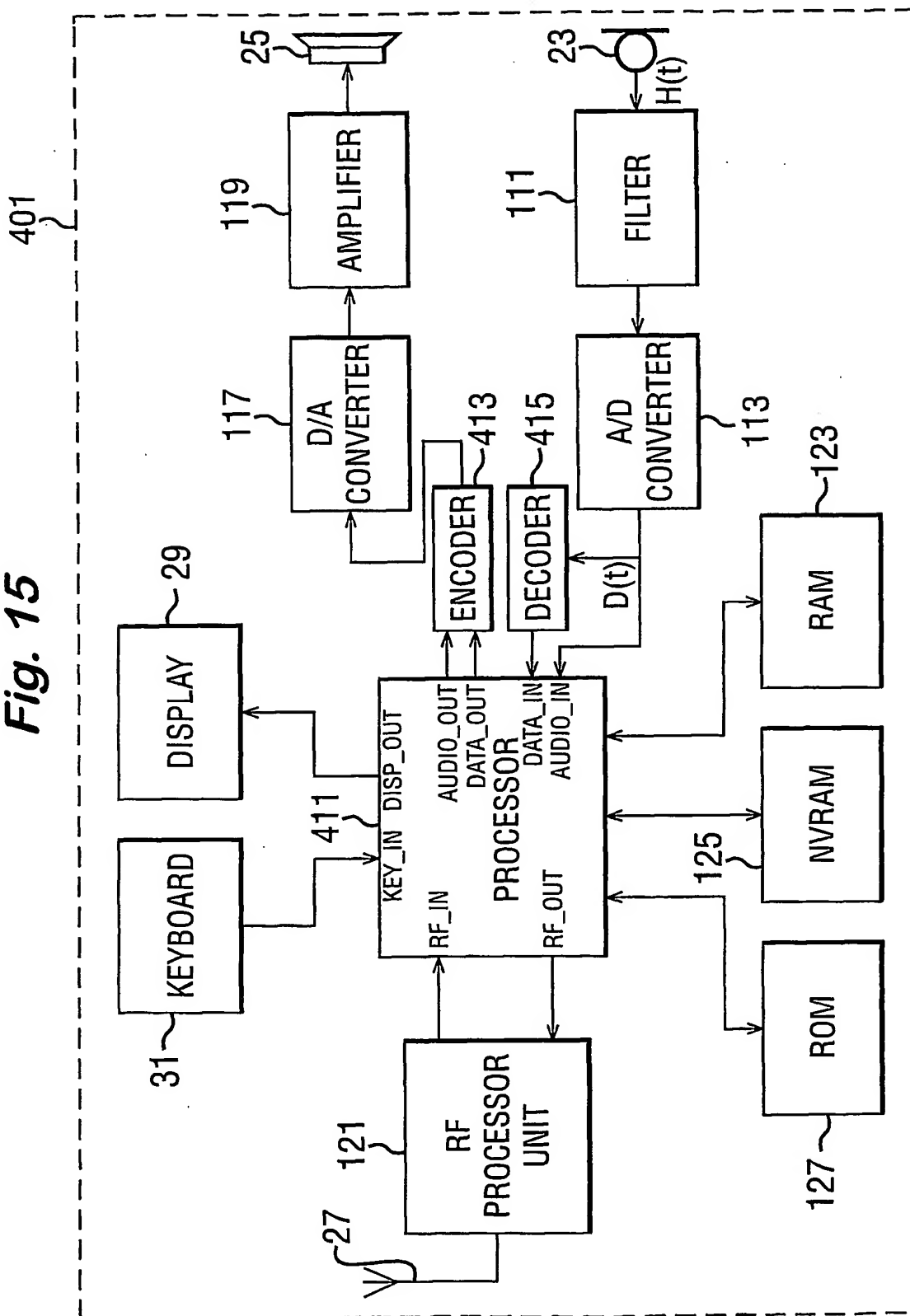
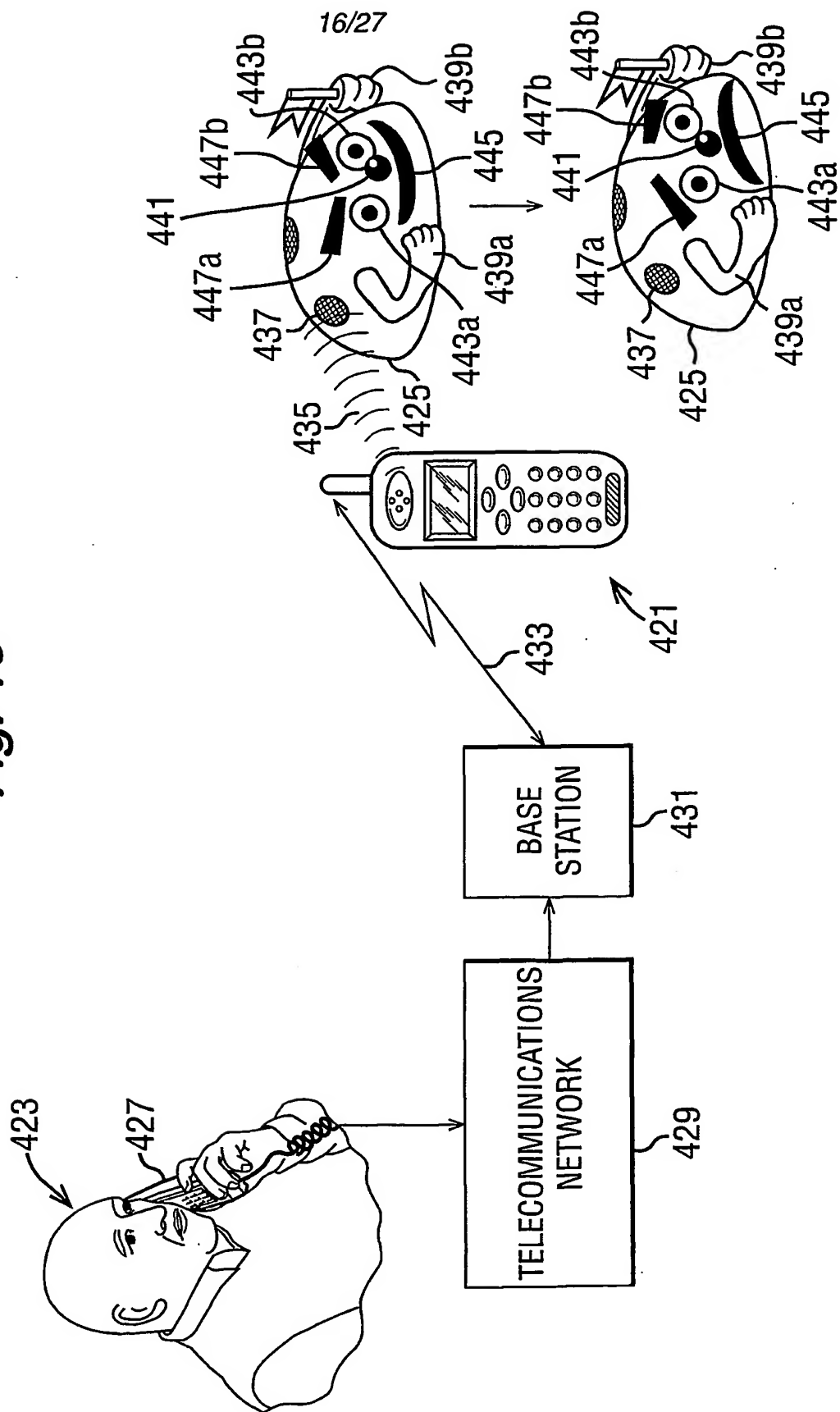
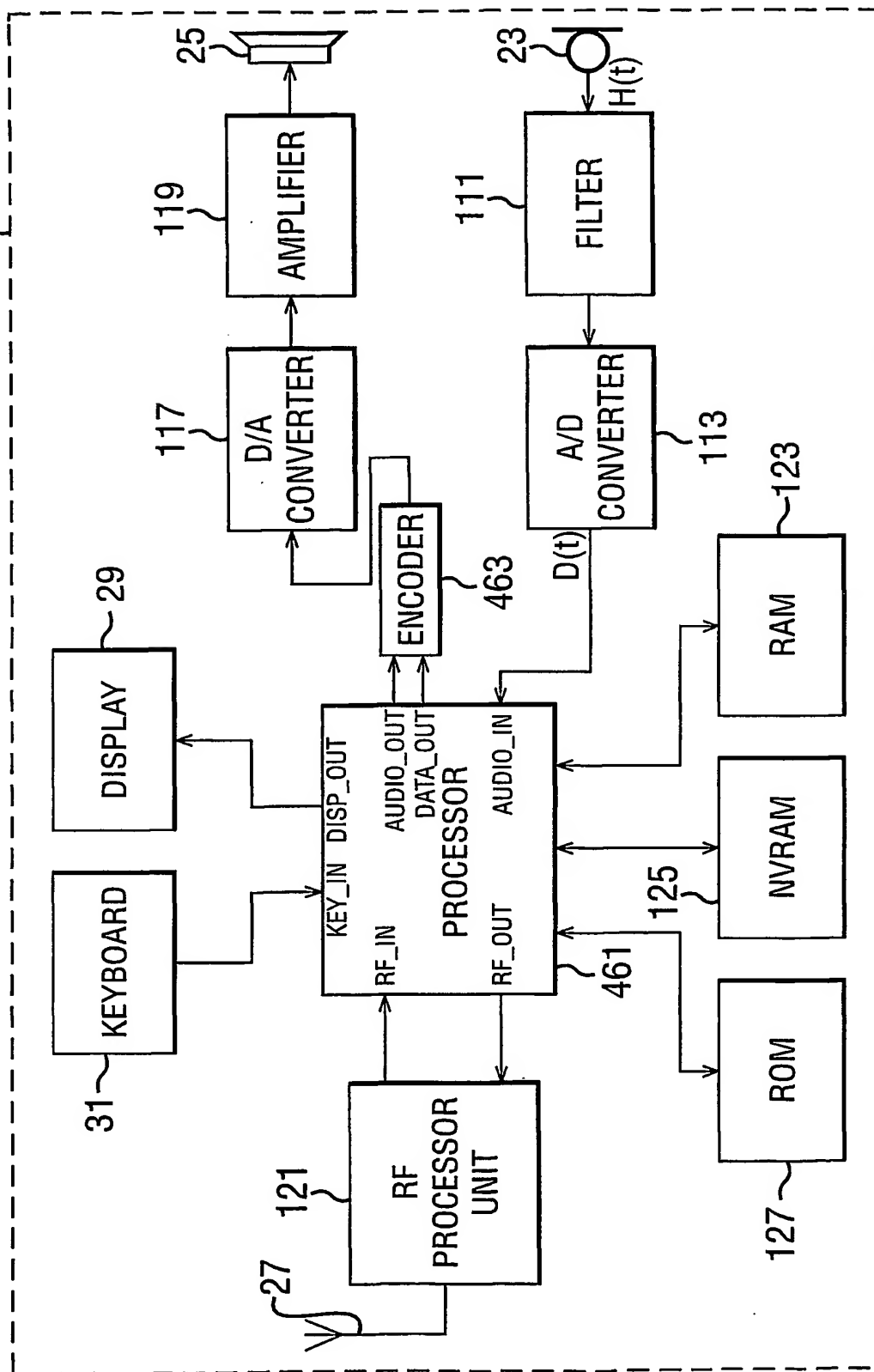


Fig. 16

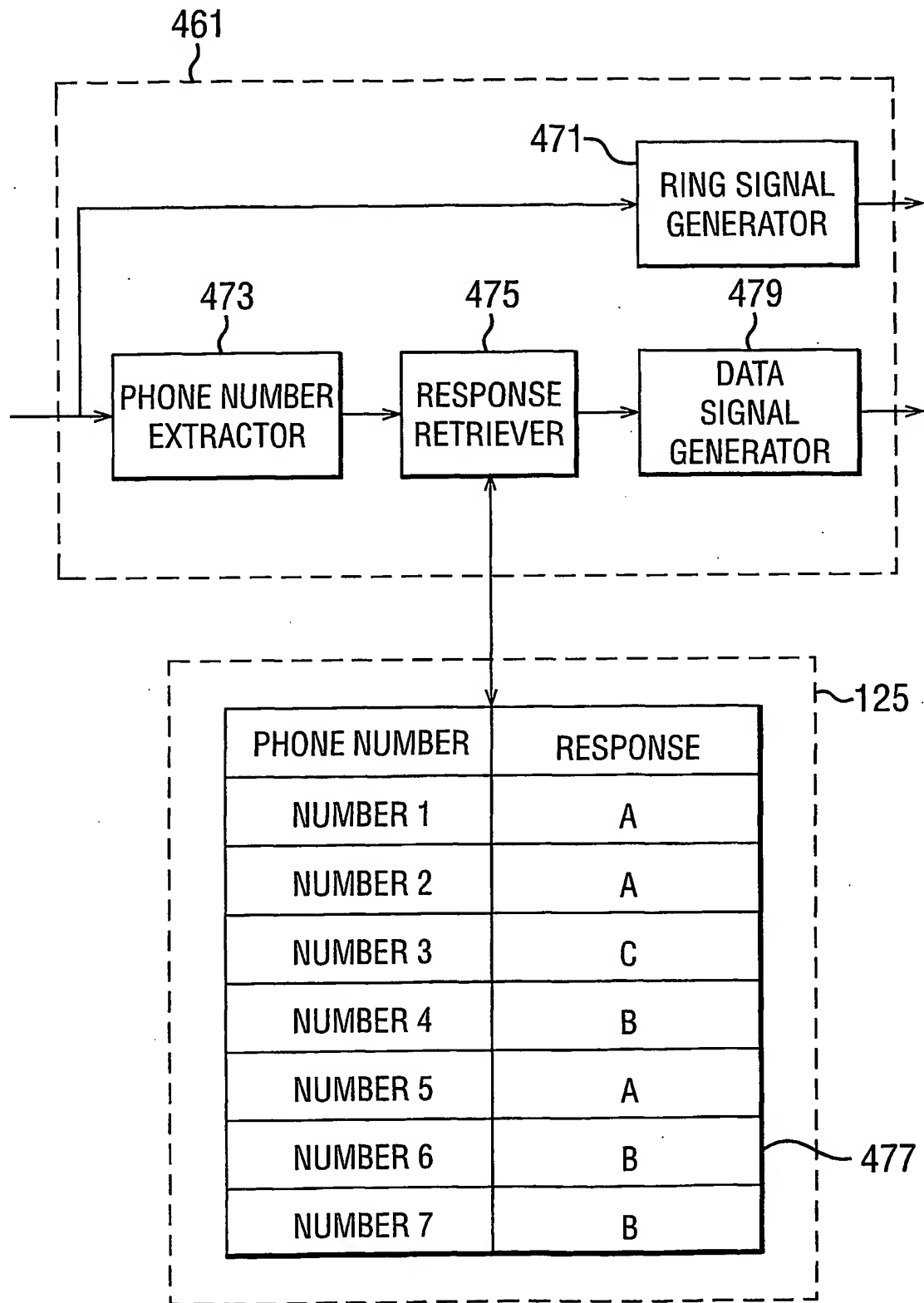


17/27

Fig. 17

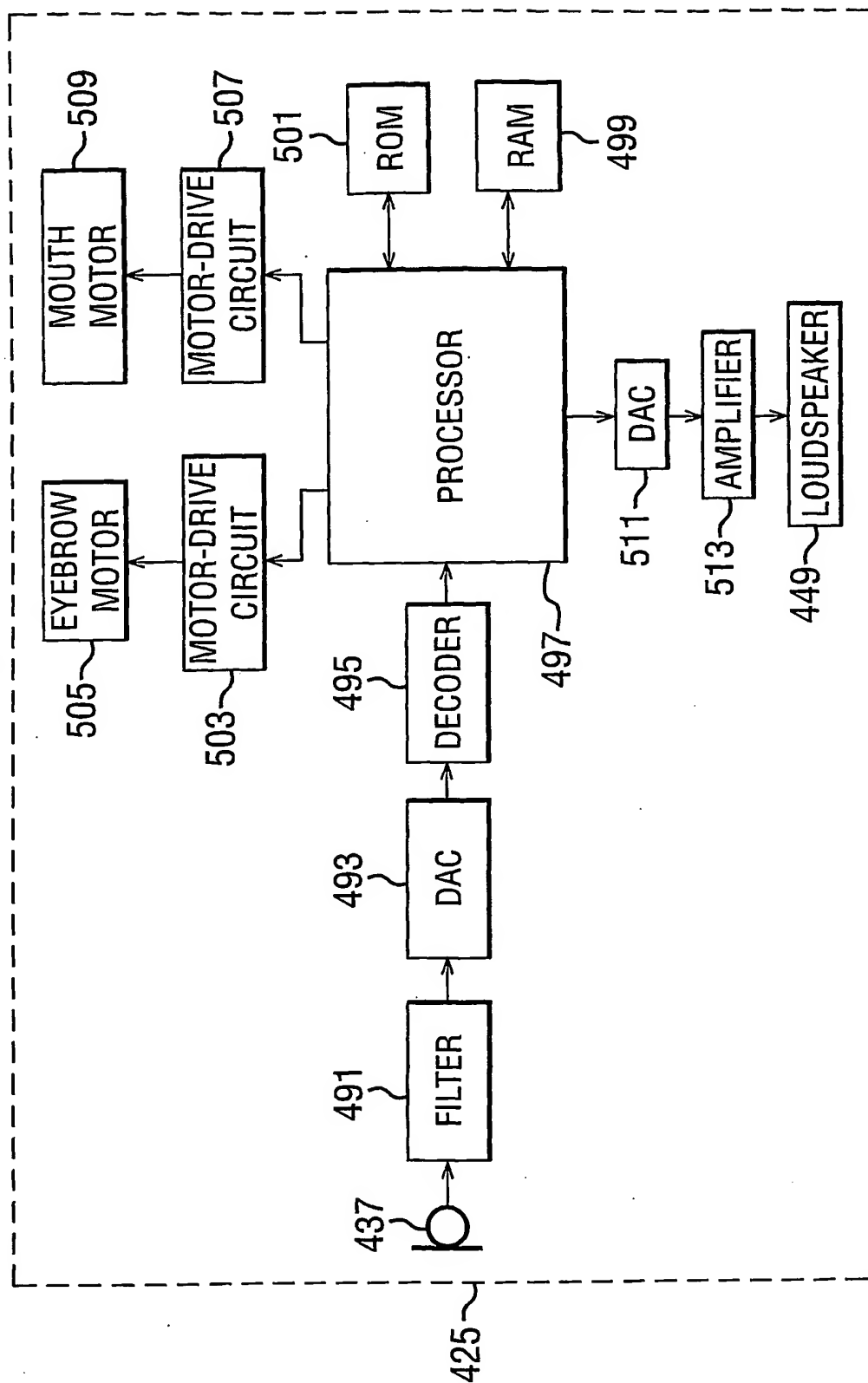


18/27

Fig. 18

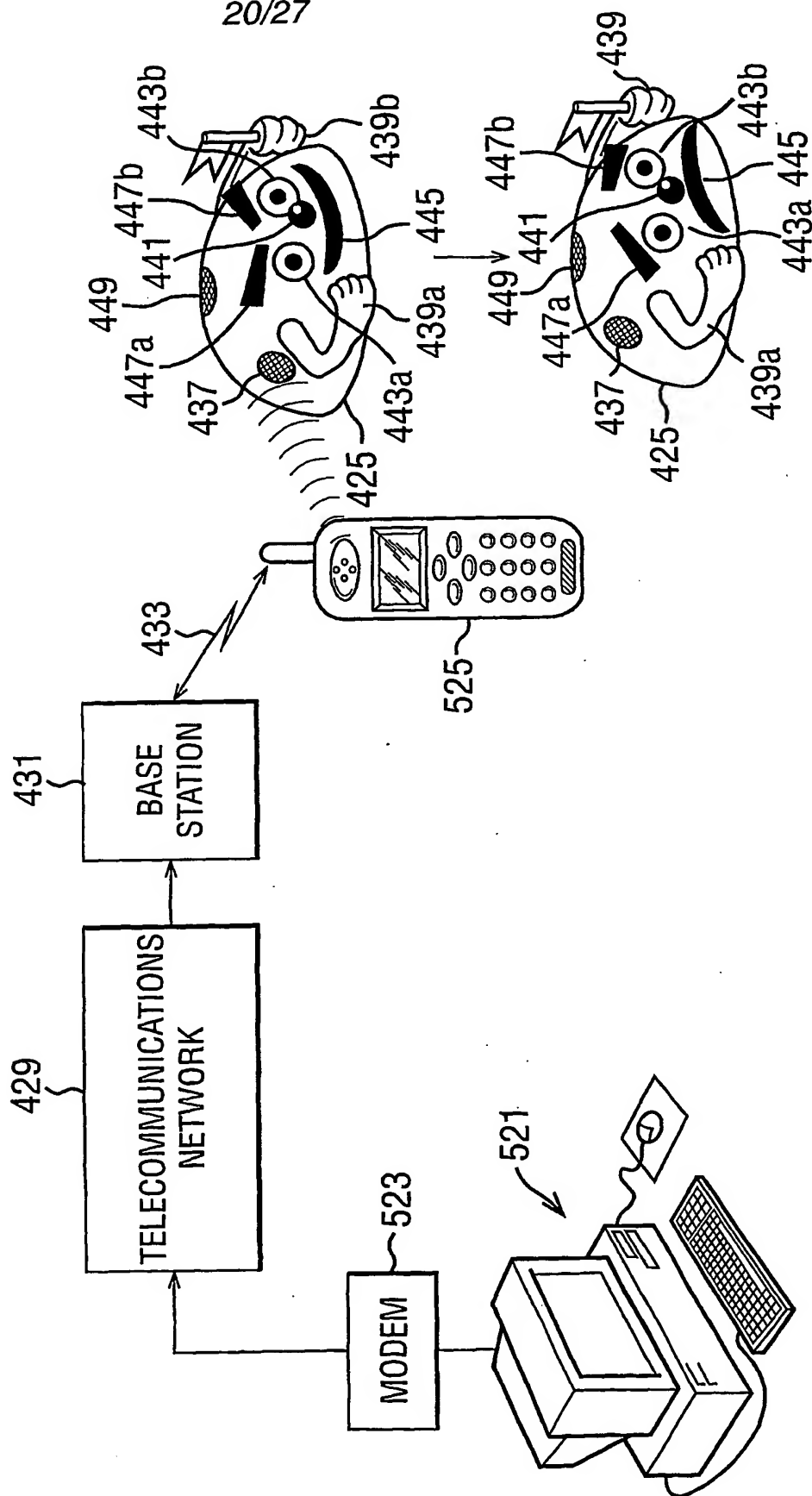
19/27

Fig. 19



20/27

Fig. 20



21/27

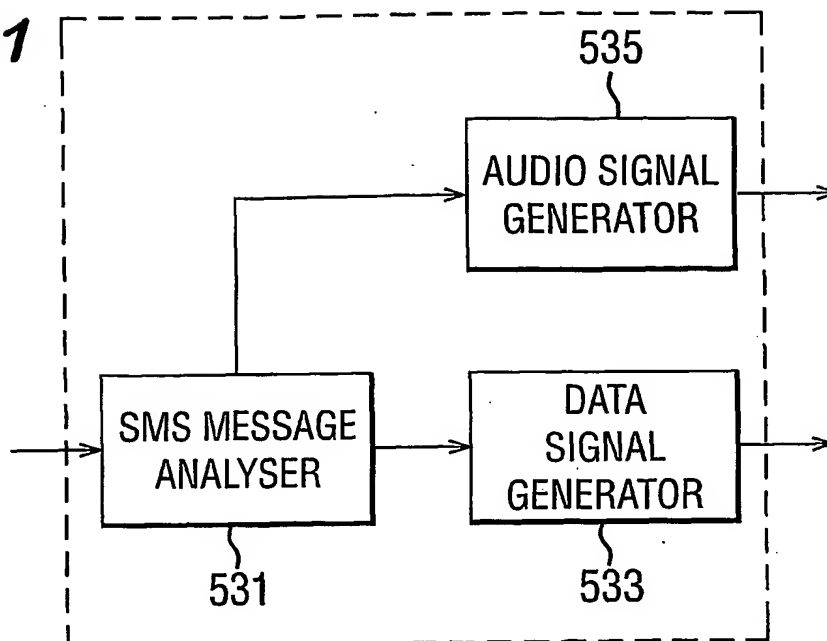
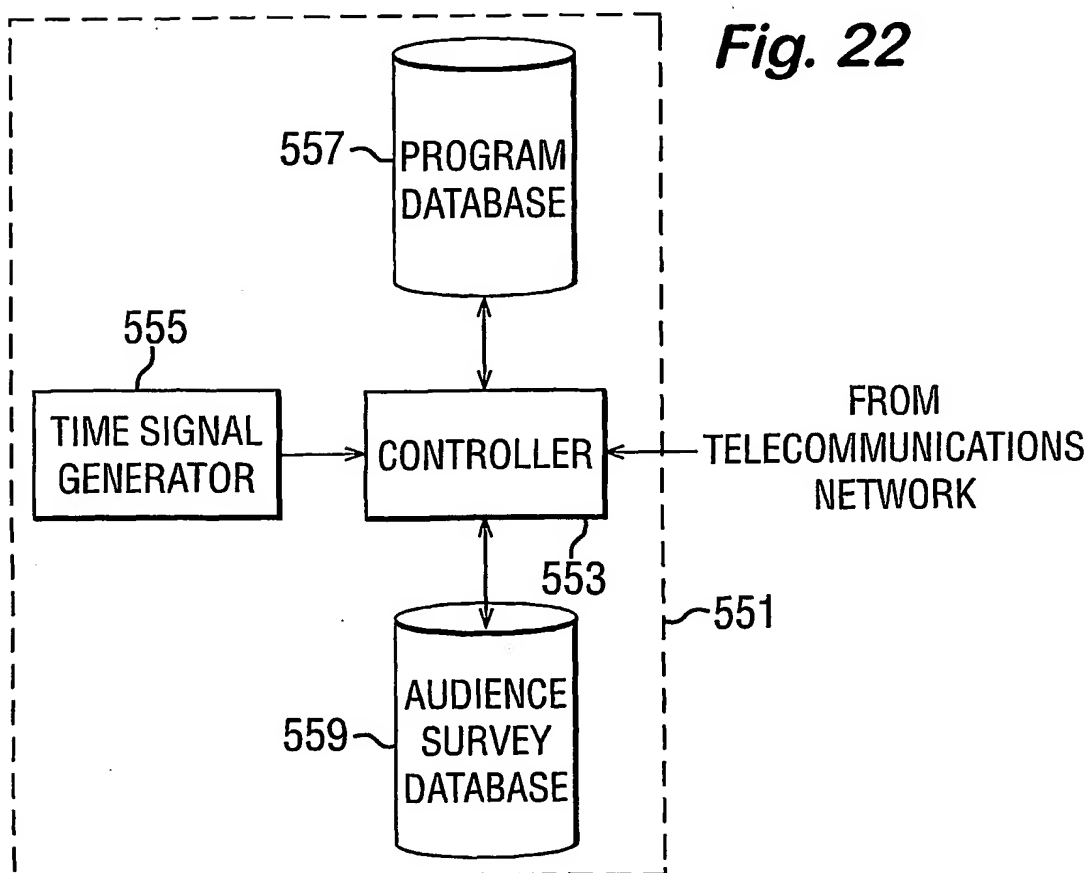
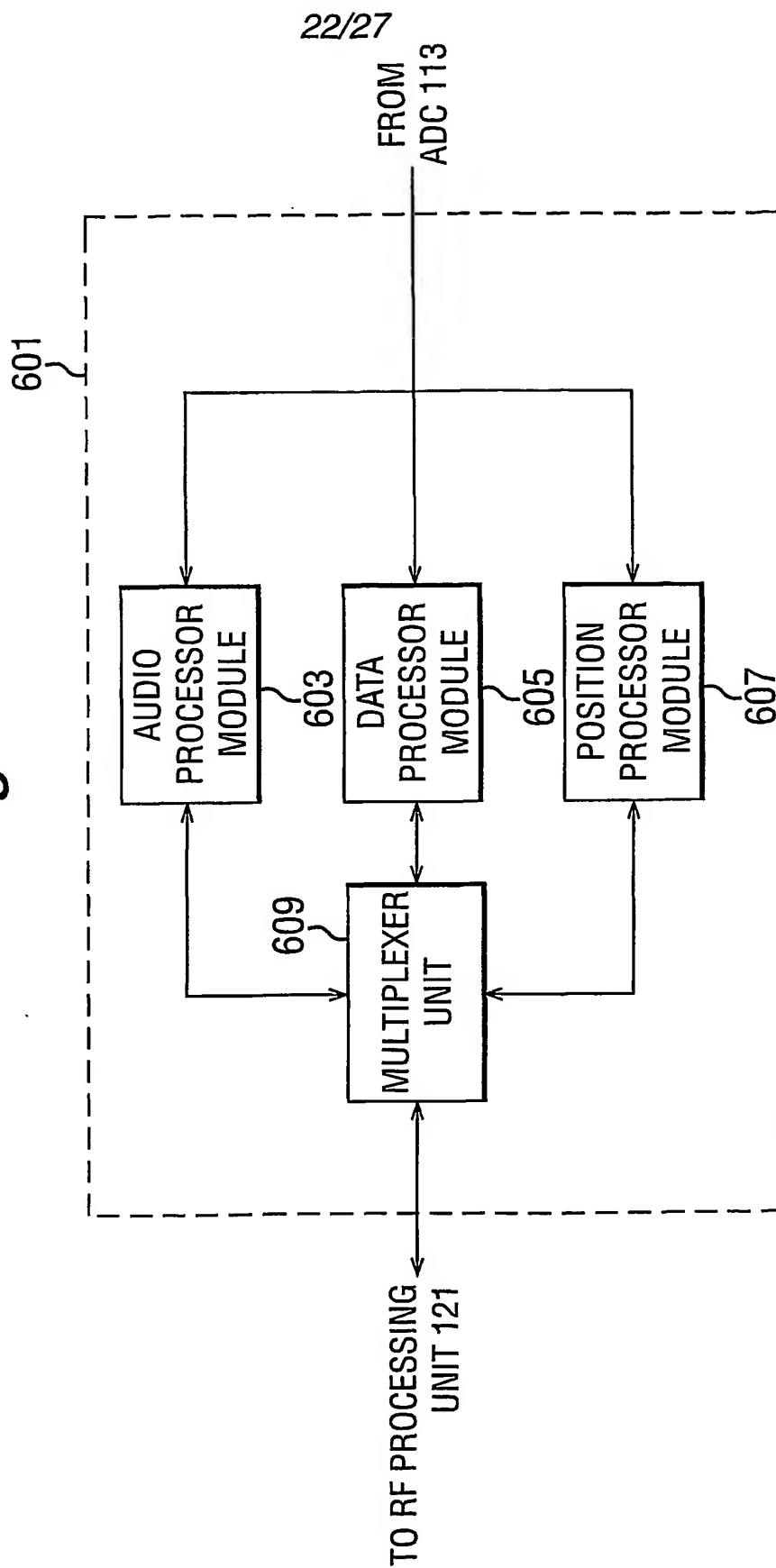
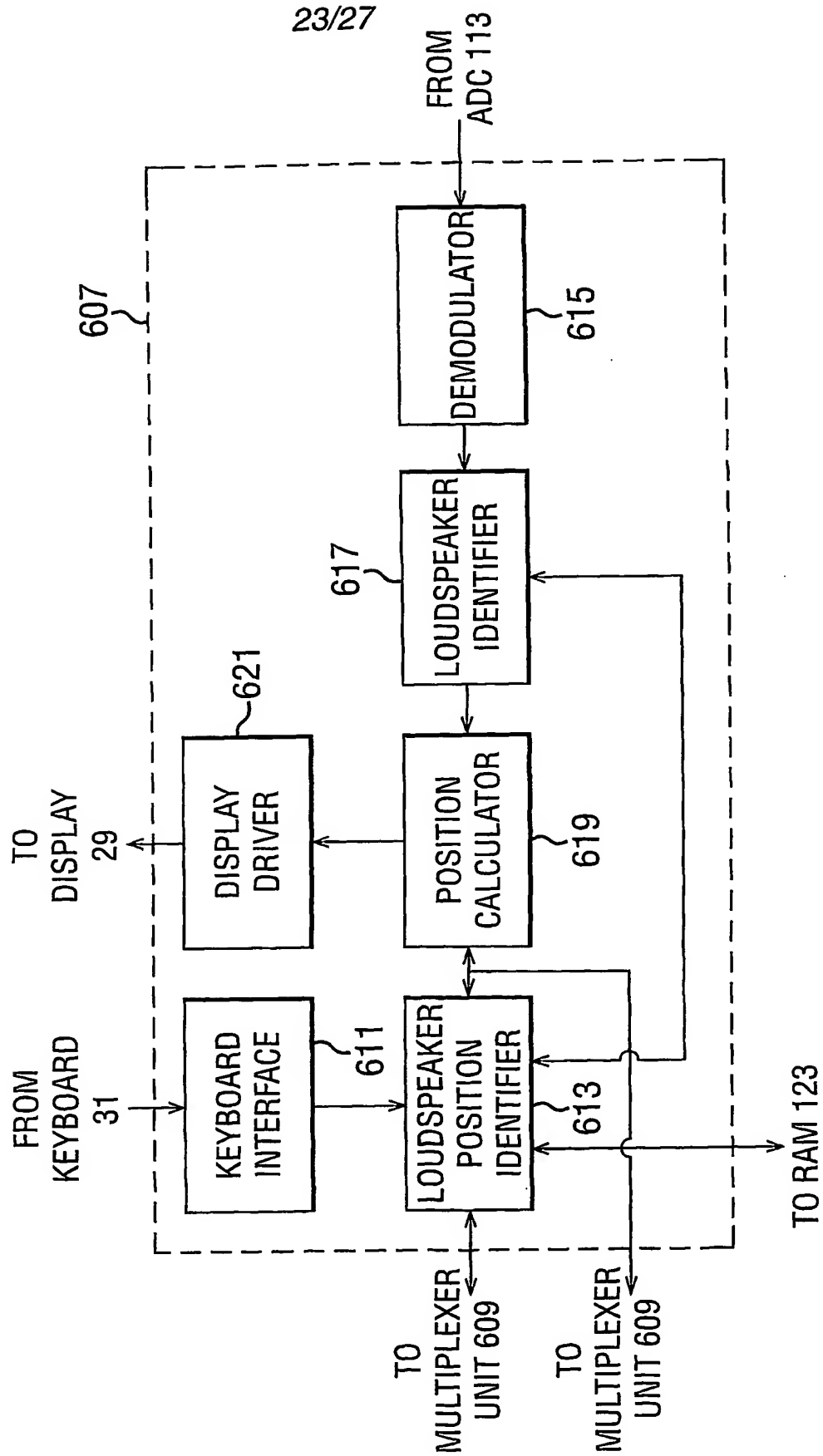
Fig. 21**Fig. 22**

Fig. 23

23/27

Fig. 24



24/27

Fig. 25

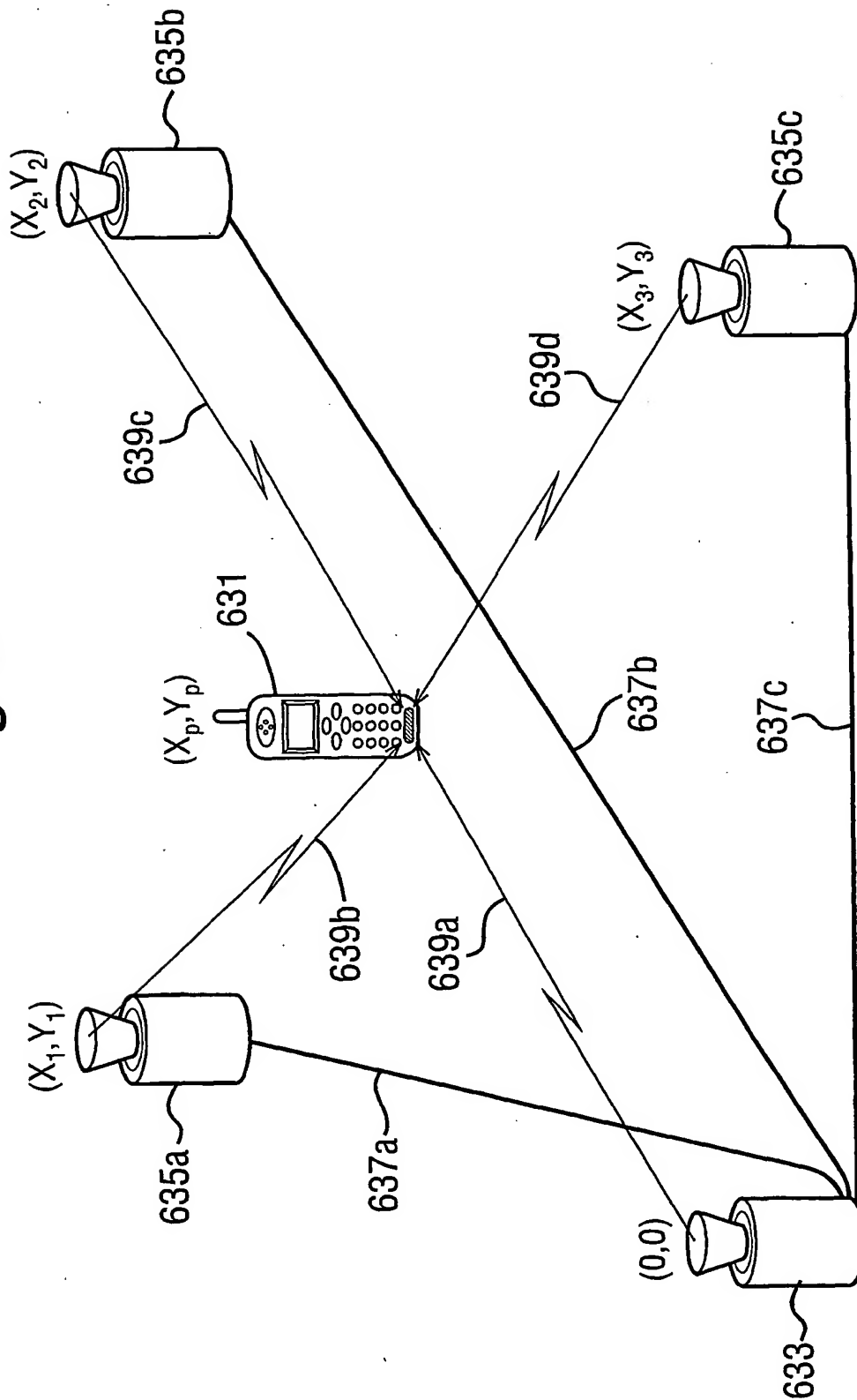
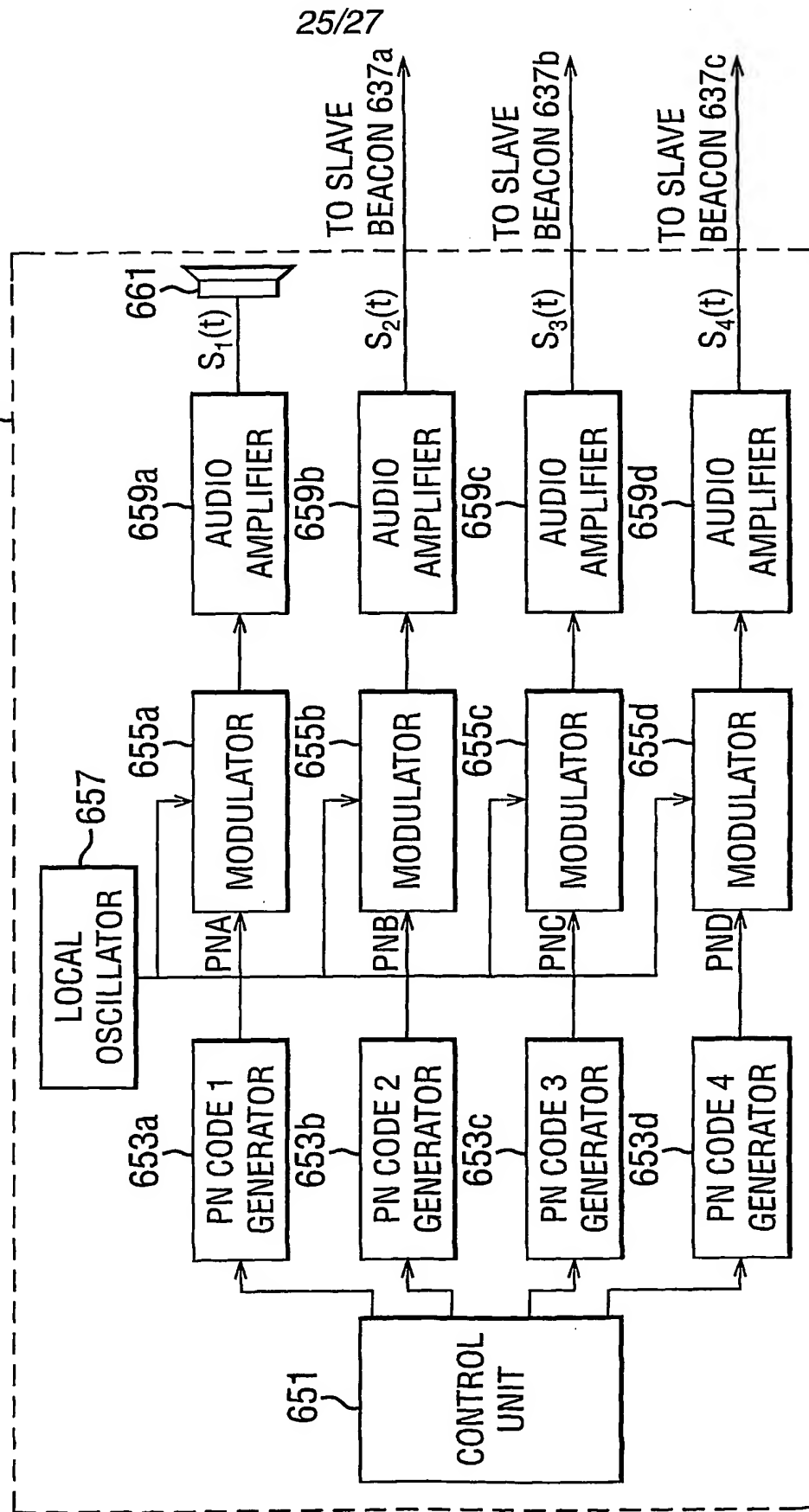
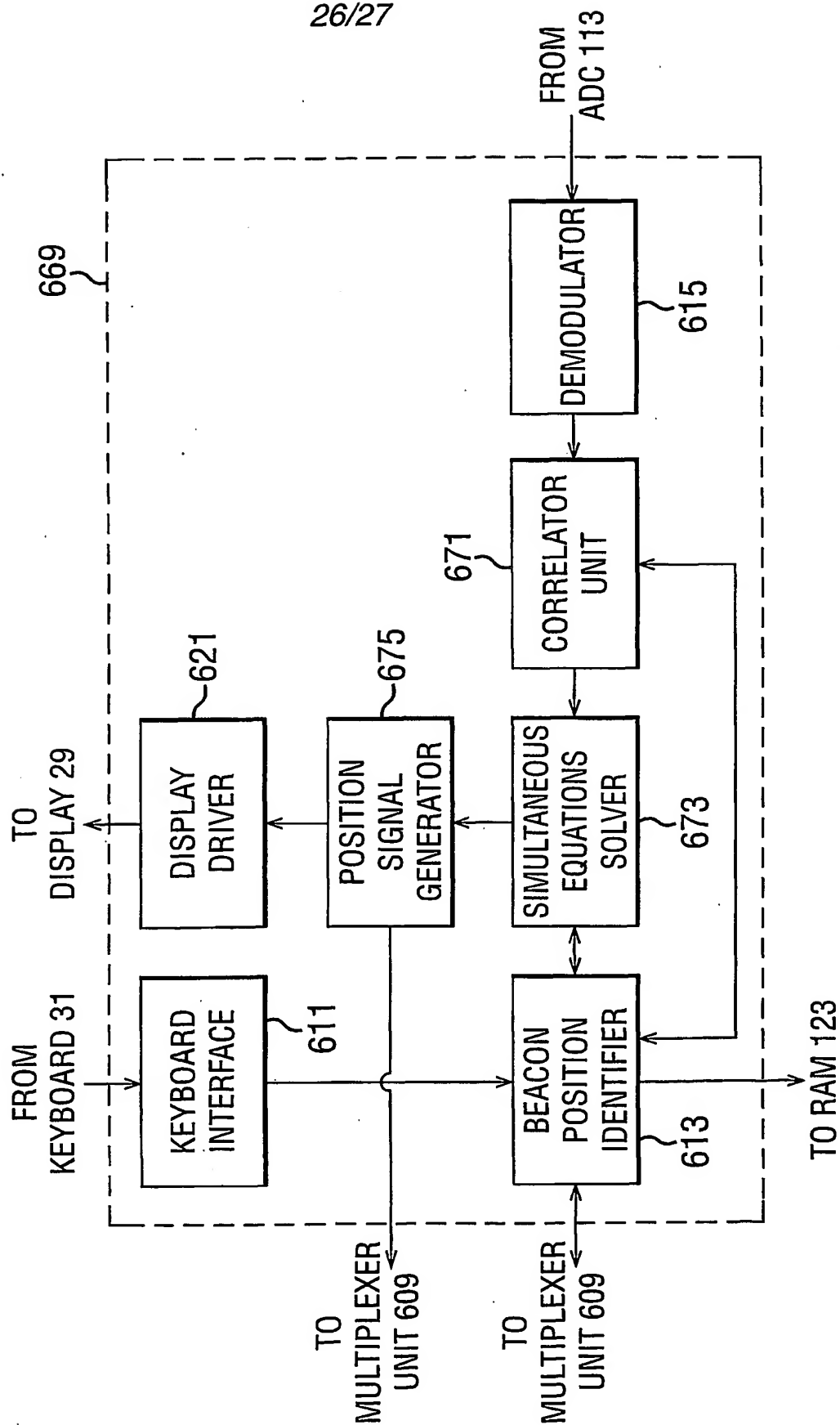


Fig. 26



26/27

Fig. 27



27/27

Fig. 28

